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Arab-Israeli Talks

Lebanese Delegates Not To Attend Talks' Final Session

NC1109113793 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 11 Sep 93

[Text] A diplomatic source has told our radio that the final session of the current round of talks, scheduled for Monday [13 September], is largely ceremonial and not particularly devoted to negotiations. The Lebanese delegation, the source said, decided not to take part in that session because the Israeli negotiators leaked to the news media the Israeli declaration of principles that had been presented to Suhayl Shammas, chief of the Lebanese delegation.

Palestinian Affairs

Refugees in Jordan Split Over Accord With Israel

JN1409101993 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 Sep 93 pp 1, 5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Excerpts] Al-Baq'ah camp—Residents of this sprawling Palestinian refugee camp Monday [13 September] staged a noisy demonstration and a partial general strike to protest the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy agreement.

"PLO, PLO, no to Gaza-Jericho, yes to all of Palestine," chanted the mostly teenage protesters, many among them masked, emulating their intifada brethren across the River Jordan.

No major events were reported from other camps in Jordan. Al-Baq'ah is seen by observers as a barometer of Palestine sentiments.

Many shops were closed after a dozen youths cruised through the narrow winding streets of this camp, the biggest in Jordan with 100,000 residents, ordering merchants to shutter their businesses to mark "the darkest day in the history of the Palestinian people."

But the divisions in Palestinian ranks over the controversial Israel-PLO peace accord were clearly visible.

Many shopkeepers ignored the orders to close. Many of them even put up posters of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and hoisted the Palestinian flags atop electricity poles.

A group of supporters of Fatah, the mainstream PLO faction co-founded by Mr. 'Arafat, went around pasting 'Arafat posters, only to have them torn down and stamped upon by rival Hamas activists as soon as the Fatah crowd turned the corner.

Policemen watched impassively and did not intervene. "Our orders are to do nothing unless the law and order situation is threatened," said a security source. "It is the democratic right of the people to demonstrate, but they should not turn violent or challenge others' rights also to protest." [passage omitted]

In Amman, about 100 men and women wearing black demonstrated outside the PLO mission, the embassy of the State of Palestine, to protest the autonomy accord.

"No to capitulation, yes to machine guns," shouted the crowd as the mission staff watched impassively from the balconies and windows of the building.

It was believed that many of the demonstrators were affiliated with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) led by Ahmad Jibril, who has threatened to assassinate Mr. 'Arafat for entering the agreement with the Israelis.

Security around the mission was boosted ahead of Monday's events. At one point some of the protesters tried to rush the gate, but were pushed back by policemen. No injuries or arrests were reported.

Lebanon Refugees Denounce Agreement, Stage Protest

NC1309140193 Shamayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1130 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Text] In response to a call for a strike, Palestinian camps in Lebanon staged an all-out strike. The camps inhabitants staged demonstrations, denouncing the signing of the [PLO-Israeli] agreement.

In 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp, a demonstration walked through the camp streets. On arrival at the sports grounds, Shaykh Mahir Hammud, member of the Islamic 'Ulema Grouping, made a speech in which he said that the conspiracy against the Palestinian people started the day the government in exile was proclaimed. He called for escalating resistance.

The member of the political bureau of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine spoke on behalf of the 10 Palestinian factions. He said: A leadership that pursues such a plan must be exposed and its claim to represent the Palestinian people must be ended. He said that 'Arafat does not represent the Palestinians and is not authorized to sign on their behalf. He called for mobilizing the people and energies and for using various forms of struggle to foil the agreement.

A general strike was observed in the Palestinian camps in the north. Demonstrations denounced the agreement and called for confronting and foiling it.

In Marj al-Zuhur, the Palestinian deporters hoisted black flags and chanted slogans denouncing the Gaza-Jericho agreement. A protest and disavowal march proceeded toward the UN Security Council grave, which was built near the camp a few months back.

The deportees' spokesman, Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, made a speech in which he said: Today the PLO invalidates the banner of liberation and restoration of rights, turns its back on the blood of the martyrs, and burns the hearts of Palestinians.

He said signing the agreement involves many risks, including giving up Palestine, selling sanctities, creating division in the Palestinian ranks, and leaving the door open to the Zionist entity to impose its economic, cultural, and political domination on the region and apply the policy of deportation to Jordan, which they want to make a substitute homeland.

Strikes Reported in 'All' Syrian Camps

JN1309131993 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Sana' al-Imam dispatch from Damascus]

[Excerpt] All the Palestinian camps in Syria staged a comprehensive strike today as the 10 Palestinian factions [opposed to the Arab-Israeli peace talks] in Damascus declared today a day of general national mourning and popular anger. A massive demonstration was staged in al-Yarmuk camp, the largest Palestinian camp in Damascus, in which thousands of Palestinians, all of them refugees, took part. The camp's walls were covered with antiagreement slogans, which stressed the refugees' right to return to their homeland. Scores of pictures of the Palestinian leader, Yasir 'Arafat, were burned, and the demonstrators chanted anti- 'Arafat slogans and called for the withdrawal of confidence in him because he ignored 4 million Palestinians in the diaspora.

The al-Yarmuk march was led by the leaders of the 10 Palestinian factions, such as Ahmad Jibril and two representatives of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The representative of Democratic Front explained that efforts were under way to foil the agreement and that 'Arafat's police would not succeed in offering the services Israel demands from them, namely, the termination of the intifadah, as he put it. However, he reaffirmed that the start of any civil war inside [the occupied territories] would backfire on its igniters. [passage omitted]

Further on al-Yarmuk March

JN1309165293 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Text] Al-Yarmuk Palestinian refugee camp in Damascus today witnessed a popular march in denunciation of the Israeli-Palestinian accord. The march started from Martyr Fayiz Halawah Hospital, passed through the main streets of al-Yarmuk camp, and ended at the camp's entrance.

Taking part in this march were the secretaries, leaders, and representatives of Palestinian institutions, the chief of staff of the Palestine Liberation Army, and a large gathering of the camp's masses.

During the march, participants raised Palestinian flags and banners denouncing the accord and reaffirming the Palestinian national identity. At the end of the march, protesters distributed a statement on behalf of the Palestinian masses in al-Yarmuk camp.

The statement said: The Israeli accord with the PLO entrenches the Israeli occupation of Palestine and disavows the blood of Palestinians and Arabs who were martyred while confronting the Israeli occupation. The statement explained that the accord aims at quelling the Palestinian intifadah and providing a bridge for Israeli hegemony in the region. The statement saluted the Palestinian intifadah and called for its continuation in order to restore the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

PFLP Official on Efforts To Set Up Alternative to PLO

JN1409095893 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 14 Sep 93 pp 1, 19

[By Riyad Mansur]

[Text] Amman—Abu-'Ali Mustafa, assistant secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], has signaled the imminent emergence of the third republic in the PLO, marking the demise of the second republic represented by Yasir 'Arafat, who inherited the mantle of the first republic from Ahmad al-Shuqayri.

Abu-'Ali Mustafa told AL-SHA'B intensive contacts are underway with a large number of national figures and opponents of the 'Arafat-Rabin accord, as he called it, as well as certain Fatah Central Committee members. The aim is to try to organize popular Palestinian conferences in Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon in preparation for convening a national general congress to decide on the establishment of alternative institutions to 'Arafat's PLO's, now that he decided to opt out of the Palestinian national agenda and pursue his own. We have our own national agenda, Abu-'Ali Mustafa said.

The PFLP official came out against Palestinian infighting, but thinks it likely if a Palestinian police force should choose to halt intifadah-related action.

'Arafat's team, he said, are not Fatah members, because it includes parties from outside Fatah, which Abu-'Ali Mustafa argues will become a liability for him. In the new era, adds Mustafa, 'Arafat's party will be made up of beneficiaries from the administrative self-rule and its economic spin-offs, including the Marshall Plan, Japanese funds, taxes, and Arab aid money.

He called on the Palestinian people to refuse to have anything to do with the agreement with Israel, on the

grounds that it was entered into without regard for the Palestinian people's wishes or national interests.

The PFLP has no regrets over having taken itself out of the PLO Executive Committee. Indeed, the position we have taken since the Madrid conference has been validated by developments. We had judged the Madrid tack to be potentially devastating to the Palestinian people's interests.

He said 'Arafat has broken taboos of the Palestinian cause. Abu-'Ali Mustafa indicated that the PFLP has decided to stay away from the Central Council, which 'Arafat will convene after he signs the agreement in Washington. This is because the session will be a ceremonial event to endorse 'Arafat's signature.

In reply to a question, Abu-'Ali Mustafa said: PFLP members are not any longer prepared to sit together with 'Arafat under one roof, since he has chosen a road other than the national agenda. 'Arafat now has his own agenda. He has his own organization, but we have the PLO—the organization whose name has been associated with the charter and the national program.

With an eye to setting up alternative institutions to the PLO, we have initiated contacts and consultations with independents in Amman and representatives of certain Palestinian factions, including Fatah Central Committee members opposed to the accord.

A preparatory committee drawn from the Palestine National Council and Palestinian factions, refugee camps, plus public figures, has been set up to organize popular rallies to pave the way for the national general congress. A committee has been formed in Damascus to convene such gatherings for refugee camp residents in Syria. Parallel contacts are ongoing in the occupied territories, Abu-'Ali Mustafa added.

He drew a parallel between the PLO situation and the French experience of the successive republics. The PLO is approaching the third republic, the first and second republics having been presided over by Ahmad al-Shuqayri and Yasir 'Arafat, respectively.

In effect, we are not forming an alternative organization; we stick to the original organization, since what 'Arafat and his team have done was to depart from the PLO the Palestinians have come to recognize by its documents, programs, and struggle.

PFLP's Malluh Affirms 'Democratic' Opposition to PLO

NC1409111293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1025 GMT 14 Sep 93

[Text] Tunis, 14 Sep (MENA)—'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh, a member of the PLO Executive Committee who is resigning, has said that Palestinian opposition will not use violence against the Palestinian authority that will supervise the Palestinian territories after the withdrawal of the Israeli army.

Malluh, representative of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], told the Tunisian paper AL-SHURUQ today: We will oppose this authority by democratic means, but will continue our armed struggle against the Israeli army.

Malluh denied that the Palestinian opposition intends to establish an alternative PLO after 'Arafat's formal recognition of Israel's right to exist. He said: We will continue to defend the PLO, its Charter, and its political program of repatriation, self-determination, and an independent state.

Malluh announced his resignation from the Executive Committee after the signing of the mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel.

Egypt To Train 200 Gazans for Police Force

NC1109144593 Paris AFP in English 1354 GMT 11 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, Sept 11 (AFP)—Around 200 Palestinians from the occupied Gaza Strip will arrive in Cairo next week for training as officers in a future Palestinian police force, Palestinian officials said here Saturday [11 September].

They will be joined by a number of Egyptian-based volunteers who are veterans of the PLO's Palestine Liberation Army (PLA), they said.

The prospective trainees will be the first such group to arrive from Gaza, and will travel on Egyptian documents.

A brigade of the PLA, the military wing of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, was based in Egypt after its creation in 1964, but moved to Lebanon after Egypt and Israel made peace in 1979.

According to Egyptian officials, between 2,000 and 3,000 veterans of this brigade returned to Egypt after the PLO was driven out of Lebanon by the Israeli invasion in 1982. They were integrated into civilian life.

The agreement to be signed by the PLO and Israel in Washington on Monday provides for the creation of a Palestinian police force to patrol the Gaza Strip and Jericho, which will gain autonomy under the accord.

Egypt Offers Election, Infrastructure Training

NC1309140293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1126 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Excerpt] Tunis, 13 Sep (MENA)—Informed Palestinian sources have stated that the Palestinian leadership received a message from the Egyptian Government expressing its readiness to train the Palestinian cadres who will supervise elections for a Palestinian legislative council in Gaza and Jericho as part of the self-rule agreement.

The message, according to the same Palestinian sources, noted that President Husni Mubarak had instructed the Egyptian institutions to train Palestinian cadres in various fields related to infrastructure. The sources noted that the joint Palestinian-Israeli technical committees, specified in the general annex of the declaration of principles, will meet one week after the signing of the agreement. The sources added that the Palestinians have already formed their own teams for these committees, which will supervise the transfer of the Israeli civil administration's powers to the Palestinian institutions and will organize relations between the two sides. [passage omitted]

Identity Cards To Be Issued in Gaza, West Bank

NC1409103393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0905 GMT 14 Sep 93

[Text] Preparations are under way "for the first time" to issue Palestinian identity cards to the people of the West Bank and Gaza to replace the cards issued by the Israeli authorities.

Talking to MENA, Palestine National Council Secretary Muhammad Subayh said Jordanian and Egyptian travel documents held by Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza will remain valid during the three-year interim period.

But the travel documents will be replaced by Palestinian passports if the Palestinian people decide they want independence or by Palestinian-Jordanian passports if they decide to establish a confederation with Jordan, Subayh said.

He stated that Palestinian stamps will be issued for use on domestic and foreign correspondence. The stamps will bear illustrations representing the distinct Palestinian identity.

He said that during the interim period, Egyptian, Jordanian, and Israeli currencies will be used, but the final shape of the currency will be determined toward the end of the period. A Palestinian pound will be issued if the Palestinian people wish.

Subayh stressed that the Palestinian flag will not change and will be raised above every Palestinian institution in the West Bank and Gaza during the interim period.

He said current educational curricula in the West Bank and Gaza will still be implemented in the interim. He explained that the Egyptian educational system is used in Gaza and the Jordanian system is used in the West Bank.

Algeria

Higher State Council Urges Palestinians To Close Ranks

LD1209185993 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Sep 93

[Text] The Higher State Council [HSC], chaired by Ali Kafi, convened today in the presidential headquarters.

Mr. Redha Malek, HSC member and prime minister, gave a briefing on his government's activities. After the meeting, the HSC announced the following:

First: A workshop will be held on Tuesday 14 September and Wednesday 15 September 1993, grouping national economic experts and economic and social partners. The discussions will revolve around evaluating the current national economic situation and the scope of economic development. This meeting will allow the specialists to exchange their different viewpoints and will provide clarifications on the greater economic matters that are being brought forth to the nation.

Second: A Higher Security Council will convene in the next few days.

In the context of discussing the situation on the international front and the Middle East peace process in particular, the Higher State Council recorded the agreement between the Palestine Liberation Organization and Israel.

Algeria, which welcomes this event, also expresses its hope that this agreement will be the first stage of a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East conflict. In this decisive stage in the history of the Palestinian people, Algeria stresses its willingness to support them and to strengthen its backing for the PLO. It also stresses the necessity of respecting the independent decision-making of the Palestinian leaders and calls on them to close their ranks.

Malek Favors Dialogue 'Only With Democrats'

LD0709193493 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] Algeria: Here is the interview given by new Algerian Prime Minister Redha Malek to our colleagues on TF-1, the French first TV channel, a few moments ago. Redha Malek was speaking live from Algiers. This is the first time he has appeared on French television since he was appointed less than three weeks ago. You will hear that, for Redha Malek, it is only with democrats that there can be a dialogue to establish peace.

[Begin Malek recording] We have always said that we are open to dialogue. For us, dialogue should [words indistinct] to be held with all those who first condemn terrorism: there can be no question of taking power by force. Second, those who are in favor of the republican state: that is the nature of our state, it is the very principle of our revolution, the Algerian revolution.

We also want those who come to hold discussions with us to accept democracy in its entirety, with all its rules. The rules of democracy are absolutely vital; they must be clearly established so that people can indeed act democratically and hold a dialogue with the different political forces in the country. [end recording]

Security Forces Kill 13 Armed Men in Lakhdaria

LD1209164893 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Sep 93

[Text] A security source stated today that 13 armed men were killed at the hands of the security forces on 9 September at about midday at (Oulali) in the Lakhdaria Municipality of the Bouira Province.

The same source added that the security forces have recovered a quantity of arms consisting of a machine-gun, army rifle, two automatic pistols, 10 shotguns, and a homemade grenade.

Kidnapped Journalist Found Dead in Blida Province

LD1309093993 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Sep 93

[Text] An APS dispatch states that the security department has learned that the body of journalist Bakhtaoui Sa'ad, from the weekly 'ELMINBAR'—the organ of the political party known as the Popular Society for Unity and Action—was found on 11 September 1993. He had been murdered by bullets; his body was found near Larbaa in the province of Blida. The source added that the victim was kidnapped on 10 September 1993 by four armed men who were travelling in a car.

Egypt

Policeman Killed as Gunmen Open Fire in Dayrut

NC1109102493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0953 GMT 11 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 11 Sep (MENA)—Policeman Makramallah Sabir 'Abd-al-Karim from the Asyut security force was killed and another policeman, Ahmad Fathi 'Abd-al-Hakim, was injured when unidentified individuals opened fire on them in a car park in Dayrut today. This was announced by an Interior Ministry source today.

Second Policeman Dies

NC1109112993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1110 GMT 11 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 11 Sep (MENA)—Policeman Ahmad Fathi 'Abd-al-Hakim from the Asyut security force, who was injured in Dayrut today, later died of his wounds.

An Interior Ministry source said the policeman died at Dayrut General Hospital during surgery to extract bullets that hit him in several parts of his body.

The security forces are continuing their search for the culprits.

Defense Minister on Significance of Badr-93 Exercise

NC1209153793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 12 Sep 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 12 Sep (MENA)—Defense Minister General Husayn Tantawi delivered a speech today at the beginning of President Mubarak's meeting with the Armed Forces commanders and officers who took part in the Badr-93 major exercise. He welcomed President Mubarak, the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, and said that the maneuver proved that the present generation of the Armed Forces fighters is an extension of the October generation, which achieved a glorious victory in 1973. The maneuver, he added, comes on the 20th anniversary of this victory. He noted that through the Badr-93 maneuver, the Armed Forces commanders, officers, and soldiers have demonstrated to their supreme commander and to the great Egyptian people the fruits of their efforts and dedication, proceeding from their firm belief that they are the vanguards in preserving the security and safety of this nation. The defense minister added: Our decision to perform an exercise of such unprecedented magnitude is an affirmation of our strategy to maintain a force capable of safeguarding a just and durable peace in the region. [passage omitted]

The defense minister noted that the maneuver has demonstrated our fighters' competence and capability to develop Eastern weapons, which are still in the service of the Armed Forces, adding that during the exercise a combination of Eastern and Western weapons were used. He pointed out that the maneuver has put to the test the competence and reliability of the Egyptian-made weapons and equipment, which proved their worthiness under all circumstances. In addition, he added, the maneuver hardened the combat capability of the Egyptian forces, which acquired experiences that will make several militarily advanced states seek to conduct joint exercises with them. [passage omitted]

Information Minister Departs for Libya With Message

NC1109165493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1615 GMT 11 Sep 93

[Text] Tubruq, 11 Sep (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif left Tubruq on his way to the Libyan capital Tripoli this evening.

Before his departure, Al-Sharif stated that he is carrying a message from President Husni Mubarak to Libyan Revolution leader Colonel al-Qadhdhafi.

Comments on Message

NC1209153193 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 12 Sep 93

[Text] Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif is expected to return to Cairo today after a visit of several hours to Libya as envoy of President Husni Mubarak.

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, received al-Sharif in his residence and al-Sharif conveyed a message from President Mubarak.

On arrival in Tubruq, al-Sharif said President Mubarak's message dealt with his view of the developments in the Middle East peace process, the development of the ongoing talks in Washington between Arabs and Israelis, and the future of Arab and Palestinian action in the context of the declaration of principles between the PLO and Israel, which was made as a step toward obtaining a just and comprehensive peace and preserving the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

The information minister added that President Mubarak's message also dealt with the outcome of the current international contacts to settle the Western-Libyan dispute. He said he is bringing a message from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to President Husni Mubarak.

Reports to Mubarak on Libya Visit

NC1309141093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 Sep (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today received Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif.

Following the meeting, al-Sharif said that he presented a report to President Mubarak concerning the message he conveyed to brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution.

The information minister said that he conveyed to President Mubarak a message from al-Qadhdhafi. The two messages, al-Sharif said, are part of the consultations between the two leaders concerning the most important issues on the Arab scene, such as the peace process, the PLO-Israeli declaration of principles, and the current efforts to narrow the differences between the sides of the Libyan-Western conflict.

Libyan Envoy Leaves for Talks With Butrus-Ghali

NC1209094893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0846 GMT 12 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 12 Sep (MENA)—'Abd-al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, Libyan ambassador to Tunisia, left Cairo this morning for New York. In a departure statement, al-'Ubaydi said that he will meet UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali for consultations on certain parts of a possible peaceful solution to the Libyan crisis with the West. The Libyan official did not specify what parts of the solution

he was referring to and declined to answer a question on whether he will present Butrus-Ghali with new proposals.

Libya

Lockerbie Suspects 'About To Surrender' to Scotland

NC1109122293 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 10 Sep 93 p 9

[Excerpts] AL-MUSAWWAR has learned that the two Libyans implicated in blowing up an American plane over Lockerbie, Scotland, are about to surrender voluntarily to the Scottish authorities after Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi announced that the Jamahiriyah would not hand them over.

Informed sources expect the trial to begin before the end of September under guarantees that the two defendants will not be interrogated outside the court. Other defense guarantees note that the trial will deal exclusively with the defendants' connection with the incident.

Scottish lawyer Alistair Duff announced he has been assigned to defend the two Libyan suspects and will visit them in Libya this month to discuss the trial procedures. The UN decision to lift economic sanctions on Libya depends on this trial; the sanctions will be lifted once the defendants surrender. Libyan legal sources have expressed their optimism over the Libyan defendants' position. Analyzing the circumstances surrounding the incident, the sources note that the indictment documents indicate it will be difficult to find the defendants guilty. [passage omitted]

Key personalities have asserted that the UN Security Council will find itself faced with two options if the two defendants do not hand themselves over. The first is to issue a resolution depriving Libya of the ability to buy the spare parts, equipment, and tools necessary for its oil industry, which will harm Libyan oil exports. The second option is to put a freeze on Libyan funds retroactively, including both old and new funds.

Embassy in Algiers Issues Statement on al-Qadhdhafi Remarks

LD0909204493 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1855 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Text] Algiers, 9 Sep (JANA)—The Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau in Algiers released the following statement today:

We stress the deep relationship between the 1 September [Libyan] revolution and the 1 November [Algerian] revolution. This has reinforced the fraternal relations between the two sister countries, which have become an example of cooperation, good neighborliness, constant coordination, and fraternal solidarity, and which have played a major role in the establishment of the Arab Maghreb Union which has turned the states in the region into an integral unit in which they have a mutual influence on one another.

We also express [our] constant and continuing desire to consolidate this relationship with sister Algeria in all fields. However we were astonished by the reaction to parts of the speech delivered by the brother leader [Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi] on the occasion of the 24th anniversary of the revolution. In his speech the brother leader touched on and analyzed the failure of multi-party politics and elections in the world, where the results are always questioned and give rise to conflicts. The brother leader mentioned Algeria as one of many examples, and his intervention, which was before a session of the General People's Congress in the Jamahiriyah, was within the framework of his action to incite the Libyan Arab people to adhere to direct people's rule.

We would like to point out that what the brother leader said in his intervention was within the framework of his fraternal eagerness to see stability restored in sister Algeria and his readiness to persuade some parties to abandon violence, assassinations, and bombs—which have nothing to do with Islam—and to adopt peaceful means and dialogue to thwart the conspiracy aimed at us all.

We also state that the profound relationship between the two revolutions and the two countries is above any misunderstanding or interpretation of intentions. The common fate of the two sister countries, the Great Jamahiriyah and Algeria, reinforces their determination to develop bilateral cooperation.

Morocco

Israeli Leaders Arrive in Rabat for Talks With King

TA1409101393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 14 Sep 93

[Text] The Israeli Air Force plane carrying Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres landed 30 minutes ago at Rabat airport in Morocco. Mr. Rabin and Mr. Peres will confer with King Hassan, and the visit will last about six hours. Before it ends, there will be a news conference in Rabat in which the establishment of diplomatic relations between Morocco and Israel might be announced. The prime minister is scheduled to lay a wreath at the grave of King Muhammad V, the late father of the current king.

Jerusalem expects Saudi Arabia and Tunisia to soon announce their readiness to establish diplomatic ties with Israel, our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports.

Filali To Visit Iran with Message for President

LD1209082293 Tehran IRNA in English 0625 GMT 12 Sep 93

[Text] Rabat, Morocco, Sept. 12, IRNA—A spokesman for Morocco's Foreign Ministry here Saturday said Tehran and Rabat were treading "A course of mutual understanding and of efforts for finding the best way to strengthen bilateral relations."

Abdalqadir Alja'i told IRNA here that the forthcoming visit to Tehran of the Moroccan foreign minister, Abdellatif Filali, would be within the same context.

Diplomats in Tehran and Rabat have recently said that the Moroccan minister would visit Tehran this week to submit a message from King Hassan II to Iran's President 'Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

The spokesman, underlining the fact that Islam laid the foundation for relations between Iran and Morocco, quoted the Moroccan king as repeatedly saying that all followers of Islam should get together for arriving at the best common and plausible outlooks ensuring prosperity of all Muslim nations.

Campaign Begins for Indirect Elections To Parliament

LD1009220093 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 10 Sep 93

[Text] Campaigning began today for the indirect ballot that is due to be held on Friday, 17 September. The elections are being held to select one-third of the members of the House of Representatives, who are voted on by the members of local assemblies, professional chambers, and workers' representatives. The campaign will last until Thursday, 16 September. This campaign for the indirect elections began after the period for depositing the nomination lists and declarations ended yesterday.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Denounces 'Conspiracies' of U.S., Allies

EA1109164093 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 11 Sep 93

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and of the Council of Ministers, has affirmed that the conspiracies being hatched by America and its allies against Sudan aim at our civil orientation and our Islamic choice which we have approved. This came when he addressed a rally yesterday in honor of the martyr Muhammad Ahmad 'Umar at al-Mahandis House in Khartoum.

His excellency said such occasions are regarded as important stands during which we reexamine the lives of our martyrs and draw lessons. Lt. Gen. al-Bashir added that the martyr Muhammad Ahmad was one of the first who demanded jihad in the south, and he was true in demanding martyrdom. He was a model of sincerity who was optimistic of God's victory. He said the martyr Muhammad Ahmad 'Umar offered, through his martyrdom, a lesson to all those who ("stand alone) and to stooges. [as received] He also presented a true model to the leadership of the National Salvation Revolution.

His excellency saluted all the martyrs who sacrificed their souls cheaply in entrenching the pillars of peace in the regions of the country. Lt. Gen. al-Bashir also confirmed that the revolution will give special care to the families of the martyrs.

Tunisia

Tunis Said To Be Ready for Ties With Israel

TA1309141093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Text] The foreign relations director general of the Tunisian Government says there is nothing preventing Tunis from establishing full diplomatic ties with Israel, and it is waiting for another North African country—presumably Morocco—to declare the establishment of such ties.

In a conversation with our correspondent Rina Matzliah, Galiah Masawi said that Tunis prefers to avoid a demonstrative step, but like the other Arab countries, it is ready to set up full relations with the State of Israel.

Kuwait

Council of Ministers Backs GCC Stand on Peace Talks

LD1209142693 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1256 GMT 12 Sep 93

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 12 Sep (KUNA)—The Council of Ministers today expressed solidarity with the statement issued by the GCC Ministerial Council on the positive developments witnessed by the negotiations on peace in the Middle East.

The Council expresses the hope that "this first step will lead to the achievement of the desired results of securing the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people and the recovery of all the occupied Arab territories, thus laying down firm foundations for security, stability, and a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East."

Today's meeting of the Council was chaired by his highness the heir apparent and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd Al-'Abdallah Al-Sabah. [passage omitted]

Bosnian President Izetbegovic Pays Official Visit

Arrives 13 Sep

LD1309102893 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0936 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 13 Sep—Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic arrived here today on a one-day visit.

His Highness, Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad and senior Kuwaiti officials were the first to receive President Izetbegovic. [passage omitted]

Discusses Bosnia Situation With Amir

LD1309162393 Kuwait KUNA in English 1215 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Text] Kuwait, 13 Sep (KUNA)—The official talks between the Bosnian president, Alija Izetbegovic and the Emir of the State of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, were held here today .

In a press statement, the Minister of Emiri Court Affairs, Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad, said the talks concentrated on the development of the situation in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the international and Islamic positions put forward concerning the Serbo-Bosnian conflict.

The Bosnian president had arrived earlier today on a one-day official visit coming from Tehran within his tour of the region.

Departs Following One-Day Visit

LD1309165593 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1402 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 13 Sep KUNA—Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic and his delegation left Kuwait International Airport at 1600 today following a one-day official visit, during which he held official talks with his highness the amir. He was seen off by his highness the amir , his highness the heir apparent and prime minister, and the first deputy prime minister and foreign minister. [passage omitted]

Daily Claims Izetbegovic 'Let Down by Washington'

LD1409091493 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0614 GMT 14 Sep 93

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 14 Sep (KUNA)—AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM said that Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic came to Kuwait not as a visitor but as a person calling desperately for help after having been let down by Washington when he returned empty-handed from the White House. The Kuwaiti daily in its leader today under the title: "Bartering Interests With Principles" said that when the Bosnian president visited Washington the White House was unfortunately preoccupied "with making the Zionist dream come true in Palestine and with preparing the stage for the documentation of the historic moment of the recognition and acceptance of the criminal's right over the victim." [passage omitted]

Oman

Sultan Decrees Signing of Chemical Arms Ban Treaty

JN1109162193 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Sep 93

[Summary] Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id has decreed that Oman will sign the treaty banning the introduction, production, stockpiling, and use of chemical weapons. The decree commits Oman to the destruction of such weapons.

Qatar

Minister Receives Message From Iraqi Counterpart

JN0909190593 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Text] The Qatari News Agency today reported that Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabr Al Thani, Qatari foreign minister, has received a message from Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf.

The Qatari News Agency said the ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to Qatar delivered the message, which deals with bilateral relations and Arab and international issues of common interest.

Saudi Arabia

Clinton Congratulates King Fahd on National Day

LD1309164993 Riyadh SPA in English 1224 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Text] Jeddah, Sep 13, SPA—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, has received a message from U.S. President William Clinton.

In a message to King Fahd on behalf of the people of the United States, President Clinton congratulated Saudi Arabia, which he considered as a very close ally among the community of nations and a promoter of stability in the Middle East. "Your effective rule that has lasted for 11 years is evidence of your dedicated efforts toward the Kingdom and its ever increasing role in international relations."

"The national day of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is a suitable occasion to recall the importance of your efforts toward the development and strengthening of governmental establishments through the establishment of the Shura (consultative) Council and other political reforms which you have announced."

President Clinton said "I am fully aware of difficulties and challenges of complexities which are tackled by you with success.

With our continual joint search for more security for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf region and the durable peace in the Middle East as well as efforts to preserve peace and ensure humanitarian assistances in Bosnia and Somalia, I remember repeatedly the Kingdom's devotion to these causes and other important causes. In addition to our international concern, this year has witnessed continuing strengthening of our bilateral trade ties for mutual interest and more welfare for the future of our two peoples. We are keen to continue strong cooperation, which has been a tradition between our two countries since many decades, dating back to the days of your father—King 'Abd-al-'Aziz.

Again, I congratulate you and the Saudi people on the occasion of the national day of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and wish you continuing good health and success in the future."

In a reply message to President Clinton, King Fahd said "I have received with full appreciation, your excellency's message in which you have expressed congratulations, on behalf of the people of the United States, on the occasion of the national day of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. I thank your excellency and the American friendly people for the cordial feelings and truthful and generous meanings contained in your message. On this occasion, I am pleased to refer to your excellency, the strong and deep ties as well as continuing close and historic relations between our two countries through tens of years, which exist on a common understanding and respect as well as the deep realization of every thing due to the strength of our existing ties of cooperation between our two countries in all fields, which are considered a model for relations among friendly states.

I express thanks to you for all your kind and true words in your message towards me personally and what is blessed by God on us for realizing internal accomplishments, particularly the formation of the Shura Council, the system of Cabinet of Ministers and what is to be followed in the systems of regions.

We are looking jointly for the present and future to strengthening and developing ties of cooperation to what serves the interests of our two friendly countries and people. We will continue, with the God's will, to realize what is looked forward by us, our people and the people of the Arab region to bring about durable, just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East region and other regions of the world to ensure welfare and prosperity for all parts of the region under the shadow of justice and security.

On this occasion, I have a desire to praise your fruitful efforts, exerted in the past and are on course in the present phase in serving the international peace. I wish you continuing success and progress, welfare and prosperity for the American friendly people."

Bosnia's Izetbegovic Visits, Meets With King Fahd

Arrives in Jeddah 10 Sep

LD1009194693 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 10 Sep 93

[Excerpt] His Excellency President Alija Izetbegovic, president of Bosnia-Herzegovina, arrived in Jeddah this afternoon, accompanied by Dr. Ejup Ganic, vice president, on a visit to the Kingdom. [passage omitted]

Received by King 11 Sep

LD1109190993 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1840 GMT 11 Sep 93

[Text] Jeddah, 11 Sep—Custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, may God protect him, today received in his office Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, Bosnian Vice President Ejup Ganic, and the delegation accompanying the two leaders. [passage omitted]

Says Ready for Talks With Serbs, Croats

LD1209110793 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1013 GMT 12 Sep 93

[Text] Belgrade, Sept 12 (TANJUG)—Bosnian Moslem leader Alija Izetbegovic said in Jeddah on Saturday [11 September] he was ready to resume peace talks with Bosnian Serbs and Croats. Prior to his meeting with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, Izetbegovic said he counted on Saudi Arabia's international influence to help Bosnian Moslems, ASSOCIATED PRESS News Agency reported.

After meeting with King Fahd, Izetbegovic said the U.S. fully upheld his territorial claims in the negotiations on Bosnia's division, the Saudi media reported.

Under the proposed Geneva peace plan, 30 percent of the overall territory of the former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina would go to the Moslems. Izetbegovic at first accepted the plan but later refused to sign the proposed agreement, demanding more territories.

Moslems currently control around 10 percent of the overall territory of that former Yugoslav republic.

Bosnian Moslem leader Izetbegovic arrived in Saudi Arabia from New York accompainied by Ejup Ganic, vice president of the Moslem Presidency of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Cables King on Visit, Aid for Muslims

LD1309153693 Riyadh SPA in English 1244 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Text] Jeddah, Sept 13, SPA—President Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia-Herzegovina has sent a message to Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz in which he thanked the Saudi monarch and the crown prince for the generous reception accorded to him and his accompanying delegation during their visit to the kingdom.

In a message on the occasion of his visit, he lauded the kingdom's noble support to the struggle of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina to realise their just cause against the inhuman behaviour of the Serbs and Croats. "I have found it a suitable opportunity to affirm that the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina will always remember your stand and the Saudi peoples' sympathy towards their tragedy. I would like to praise cooperation of the government of Bosnia-Herzegovina Republic with the higher commission for collection of donations for Moslems in Bosnia."

He said representatives of the higher committee informed him that the total donation through the commission has reached SR 500 million, adding that the concerned financial official of the international society to help Moslems of Bosnia-Herzegovina has also confirmed this figure. "I have full confidence in the higher commission, which practically reflects the Saudi peoples' standing in supporting the Moslems there. I appeal to you to continue to support us until we realize the clear victory against the Serbs and Croats enemies."

Two Injured in Royal Court Shooting Incident

LD1309175793 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1630 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Text] Jeddah, 13 Sep (SPA)—A responsible security source made a statement to SPA today, saying that at 1430 this afternoon while a car was crossing the exit gate from the royal court square, the driver took advantage of the moment and rushed from the exit gate to the square until he arrived at the gate leading to the court. He then got out of the car and fired towards the entrance and wounded one of the guards seriously and injured a civilian slightly.

The source added: The criminal was arrested immediately. It became clear from the investigation that he was not in a normal state, and he was handed over to the competent security apparatuses so as to carry out investigation with him in order to ascertain what he was up to.

The source concluded: When the investigation is complete, the results will be announced immediately.

Yemen

* Parties Agree on Document To Form Opposition

93LH0030A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Aug 93 p 5

["In the First Response to the Trilateral Division of Power; Five Yemeni Parties Decide on the Document of the National Bloc for Opposition"]

[Text]San'a—Five of the Yemeni opposition parties wrote a document for the formation of an alliance between them under the name "The National Bloc for Opposition" after a series of meetings, over the course of the last few months, that included intensive discussions between their leaders, a number of national personalities, and some independent representatives. It is all with the goal of defending Constitutional legitimacy, and seizing democracy based on multiplicity of parties and policies and the peaceful rotation of power.

Informed sources confirmed that the Unified People's Victorious Organization [name as published], League of the Sons of Yemen, the Party of Truth, the Yemini Unionist Grouping, and the Yemeni Popular Forces Union confirm the need for the ruling of the legal institutions, independent judgment, and work in the framework of a unified plan for opposing corruption and protecting the public assets.

Likewise, they confirmed the rejection of any amendment to the Constitution in any way other than by national consensus and after an extensive and complete dialogue with the people, considering the opposition a part of the political system in confronting the ruling

coalition, which is composed of the Yemeni Coalition for Reform, the Popular General Congress, and the Socialist Party.

The document of the Declaration of the Opposition, that will be officially signed soon, defined the role it is entrusted with as "the assessment and observation of the politics of the State, the working towards implementation of decisions and recommendations of the National Conference of the parties and the Yemeni political organizations (who met last September), respect for constitutional rights, the building of all peaceful and lawful methods for opposition, and the rejection of violence in all its forms."

It is decided that the parties of the opposition should lay down programs in three-month cycles, that a permanent joint leadership of the Bloc composed of the top-level leadership organizations of the parties attached to it oversee their continuance, that they hold their meetings monthly, and manage their work through branches in the 18 governorates, composed of leaders of the opposition parties' branches in each governorate.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that a number of independent parliamentary personalities participated in the preparation of the formation of the National Bloc at the time during which they are exerting efforts for the formation of a parliamentary bloc of the national opposition from among the independent representatives, working to join the opposition inside and outside of Parliament, and unifying efforts to confront any attempt at bypassing democracy.

Sources from the Yemeni opposition pointed out that formation of "the Opposition Bloc" represents "a step toward the reunification of the small parties and the end of the situation of dispersement and disunion, which led to its failure in several areas: winning enough parliamentary seats in the last general elections, protection from attempts at fleecing and transformation into a piece of paper at the hands of others, hhe securing of peaceful democratic selection, and the defining of the dividing line between the ruling powers and the opposition powers to avoid the mixture that has prevailed during the last period."

* GPC Committee Discusses Amendments

93LH0030E London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Aug 93 p 4

["The Permanent "People's" Committee Begins Its Session in San'a; Constitutional and Organizational Reforms of the Party Presiding Over a Program of "Rebuilding""]

[Text] Sana'a—The permanent committee of the Popular General Congress Party in Yemen began yesterday the work of its 14th ordinary session in San'a. The session was held under the slogan "On the Way to Rebuilding the Conference." Their meeting will continue until the 22d of this month under the leadership of 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, President of the General Security Leadership Council of the Popular General Congress, and in the presence of members of the Parliamentary Bloc for the Congress, which has 123 members.

The permanent committee is studying, throughout its present session, many newly-added political factors on the national scene. It is likewise examining the existing organizational situation of the Popular General Congress with regard to structural building, the mechanics of the work, and the reorganization of them both, as well as development of the work of the different organizational structures with the idea of preparing for the fifth conference of the Popular General Congress Party.

President Salih pointed out that this session will remain assembled long enough for the passing of the 11th anniversary of the founding of the Popular General Congress Party and the decision on the final wording of the National Charter on 24 August 1982.

Likewise, President Salih is examining the results of the dialogues between the parties of the coalition concerning the project of constitutional amendments and the numerous issues that affect the relationship between the parties of the governmental coalition. The permanent committee discussed in the meeting yesterday the report of the general committee presented by "The Political Office" bringing light to bear on the numerous issues and developments in the national sphere, the course of the collective work of the "Congress, Socialist, and Reform" parties, what was achieved among the three parties concerning the project of the Constitutional amendments presented to the Council of Representatives, in addition to the role of "The General People's Council" in compelling the course of reform of the service, economic, financial and security conditions in the country.

The attendees of the meeting listened yesterday to the report assessing the performance of the General People's Congress in the representative elections that took place last 27 April. The permanent committee will continue the work of its session during the coming Saturday and Sunday to complete the remaining discussion of the issues and working papers included in their work schedule.

In the same context, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the meeting that was held the evening before yesterday between the leadership of the three parties of the coalition studied issues of the arrangement and collective work in the framework of the tripartite coalition and the suitable tool for the arrangement between the three parties and their parliamentary bloc for the management of the dialogue concerning the constitutional amendments throughout the coming weeks.

The form of the leadership of the trilateral coalition is a governmental committee of 33 members, each party represented by 11 members, for the discussion of the amendments in the framework of Parliament. They agreed upon the formation of a permanent secretariat for

the coalition of three members entrusted with the preparation for the holding of joint meetings and with the following of the implementation of any agreements.

The Return of al-Bid

The Yemeni Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid returned to San'a yesterday after concluding a first visit to Jordan since Yemeni unity in May 1990. The visit lasted one day, during which he met with the Jordanian monarch, King Husayn, in the presence of the heir apparent, Prince Hasan. Official Jordanian sources mentioned that the discussion concentrated on the present Arab circumstances and ways of strengthening Arab solidarity and the relations existing between Jordan and Yemen, in addition to study of events surrounding the peace process in the Middle East.

Al-Bid said to the newspapers upon his return from Amman yesterday afternoon, "We are correct in raising the slogan of Arab reconciliation for mutual understanding," confirming the unity of the goals and interests and fate of the Arab nation. And al-Bid had concluded a tour that included France and the United States where he carried out medical inquiries. However, his meeting with the American Vice President Al Gore was received with displeasure by some of the political moderates in San'a, expressing their regret for this unexpected meeting. Their disapproval began to disqualify the Yemeni Ambassador in Washington, Muhsin al-'Ayni, from attending the meeting, which some observers describe as the first direct contact between the Yemeni vice president and the general secretary of the Socialist Party with the American officials for more than 26 years. [as published]

* Conflicts Over Constitutional Amendments Analyzed

93LH0030B London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 16 Aug 93 p 4

[Article by Abd-al-Rahman Al-Haydari: "Yemen: Background of the Disagreements Over the Constitutional Amendments"]

[Text] A dialogue is in progress in the Yemeni capital between the three coalitions, the Popular General Congress, the Yemeni Coalition for Reform, and the Socialist Party, for the sake of arriving at an agreement on three main articles. The first is related to the Islamic Shari'ah in its capacity as a source of legislation along with the Ijtihad (independent judgment in a legal or theological question), which does not oppose its judgments. The Socialist Party sees a need for the wording in this article to be more flexible, or less similar to the wording found in the present Constitution, which states that the Islamic Shari'ah is the main source of legislation. The second relates to the form of the presidency of the state. There is agreement that the presidency of the state should be changed from collective leadership to one of a president of a state and his vice president, but the disagreement about this issue revolves around the following question: Is the president elected with his vice president during the general elections or does the president appoint his vice president?

AL-HAYAH learned from its informed sources that this subject was settled in the meeting, that was finally held, on the basis that the president appoint his vice president and on the basis that the vice president takes over the presidency when the post of president is vacated for any reason whatsoever for a period of 60 days, after which new elections for the presidency will take place.

The third relates to the local councils. The Socialist Party had initially suggested the call for the election of the two governors and two chief officers of the provinces, as provided for in the Constitution. The "Congress" and the "Reform" agreed on the basis of "Managerial Decentralization" and support of the local authority through elected local councils, among whose duties are the settling of accounts and suggesting of plans. But, the "Congress" and the "Reform" confirmed that the elections and the manner of setting in motion the actions of the local authority on issues enters into the framework of the law and not the Constitution, because the latter stipulates the principle of managerial decentralization and the development of local authority. AL-HAYAH has learned that discussions are currently taking place outside of the lower house aside from settlement, between the sides of the coalition, of the principle of constitutional amendments for the sake of arriving at the suitable wording for the three controversial orientations.

The coalition is now facing two choices: Either the settlement of the constitutional amendments should be completed so that the elections of the president and his vice president take place after the passing of 60 days, ending on Wednesday in the coming October in order to avoid the occurrence of a crisis or a constitutional vacancy, or the Parliament should begin to open the door of nomination of the council of the presidency and postpone the discussion of the amendments. In the case of the passing of the 60 days without the amendments being decided on, they will not be rejected before one year's time. In the case of the election of a new council of the presidency, the present formation of the council of the presidency will be changed by virtue of the presence of a third side in Parliament—the "Reform."

* Basindowah on Foreign Relations, Arab Solidarity

93LH0030C Doha AL-SHARQ in Arabic 14 Aug 93 p 5

[Intedview with Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindowah by Muhammad al-A'riqito; place and date not given]

[Text] The foreign minister of the Yemeni Republic, Mr. Muhammad Salim Basindowah, is presently among the important personalities in Yemen, not because he is holding the reins of foreign affairs and tries with great effort to clean the stains that are attached to the relations

of his country with some Arab countries in the remnants of the Gulf War, but rather because he is among the Yemeni personalities that vies against British imperialism and because he participates in taking over a number of ministerial posts, proving his nationalism and his love for his country.

A tangible development befell Yemeni-Gulf relations recently after Basindowah assumed the management of the Foreign Ministry, as Basindowah participated, by virtue of his personal relations with a large number of Arab leaders, in breaking the ice that prevents the return of these relations to their normal state.

AL-SHARQ, through its following of the events and its desire to dot every "i" and cross every "t," carried many questions to the foreign minister.

Mr. Basindowah dotted the "i's" and crossed the "t's" in this candid dialogue and gave his point of view on everything that occupies the minds of the followers of Yemeni foreign policy. Text of the dialogue:

[AL-SHARQ] How are you straightening out Qatari-Yemeni relations?

[Basindowah] Qatari-Yemeni relations are now in their normal place, and I am able to say that the relations of the two brother countries are now normalized and close. And there is a joint striving for the evolution and strengthening of these realtions. These relations witnessed a tangible evolution immediately after the visit of the brother (His Excellency) Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabbur Al Thani to San'aa in the middle of last month. He agreed immediately after this visit on the formation of the Committee of Yemeni-Qatari Arrangement and the Committee of Yemeni-Qatari Cooperation. We are now occupied with the formation of these committees. Qatar dispatched the general director of medical services of the Qatari Ministry of Health to Yemen. He gave information about the health situation in Yemen. And Qatar began, during this visit, its preparation for the opening of a hospital fit for Turba in the governorate of Ta'izz. Such a visit is considered a confirmation of the improvement and evolution of this relationship.

Important Personalities Visit Yemen

[AL-SHARQ] Can we ask His Excellency the Minister about the most important personalities that will visit Yemen in the future?

[Basindowah] The relationship of Yemen with most of the brother and friendly countries is good. And Yemen will see during the near future visits of a number of leaders of states, among whom are Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, the Sultan of Oman, and the French President Francois Mitterrand. This will take place during the next few months. The former American President Jimmy Carter will also arrive at the end of this month.

Yemen's Relations With The Other States

[AL-SHARQ] What about Yemen's relations with other countries and the level of their improvement?

[Basindowah] The success of the elections in Yemen and the establishment of the multi-party system secured high respect and great esteem for Yemen from a lot of leaders of the countries of the world.

But, the relations of states with states remain relations of interests more than relations of principles. It is correct that what circulates is that principles are before interests, but this is from the standpoint of theory. As for the standpoint of application, interests come before principles. I see that the continuance of radiance of the image of Yemen abroad participates in the polarization of public opinion of every country because of applying pressures on the governments of these countries for the sake of backing and supporting Yemen. And the image of Yemen right now is beautiful. All the bets that said that the elections were the straw that would break the back of national unity or Yemeni unity or would lead to the lighting of the fuse of a civil war failed and there is no longer the possibility to bet on that. There are those who bet that the economic situation would become worse than it is now. I believe that the economic situation didn't become worse, and the improvement in our economic situation will be achieved, but gradually. For the bet that believes that the economic situation of Yemen will get worse is also a lost wager, like the bet on the elections or on unity.

And His Excellency the Minister continues: I expect that Yemen occupies its normal place among its brothers the Arab States and in international bodies. For Yemen is no longer that unknown as some writers were calling it; Yemen has become a prominent mark on the international map.

Arab Solidarity

[AL-SHARQ] What is your opinion about the special call for the regaining of Arab solidarity?

[Basindowah] Arab solidarity is an essential issue to the Arabs at this time, especially since the Arabs are facing great dangers that may shake them thoroughly as one nation. It is necessary that Arab differences, no matter what their size, be discussed and solved and that organizations be established that are able to make decisions on the issues whose solutions are difficult. The Arabs are in need of reconciliation and I believe they are in need of reconciliation "before" candor, because candor before reconciliation doesn't aid reconciliation, and because reconciliation before candor will help in providing brotherhood and a friendly atmosphere for candor.

The Arab position became extremely weakened as of 2 August 1990. If what happened hadn't happened, the Arabs would have entered into negotiations taking place between the Arabs and Israel and they are of course in a more powerful center. All of them used to desire that

Iraq be at its full strength, because whatever befalls any Arab country reflects negatively or positively on the rest of the Arab homeland. If good befalls it, then it is necessary that good befall all the Arab nations, and, if evil befalls any Arab region, then it is necessary that evil befall the Arab Nation. I believe that Israel displays the courage of a lion toward the region, and it does what it wants in the Arab region as a beneficiary in that declining Arab situation and in the tearing to pieces that befell Arab-Arab relations. Therefore, what happened in southern Lebanon stirred up feelings of sensitivity toward the regaining of Arab solidarity. I am not able to say that there are complete possibilities for the regaining of Arab solidarity in a period of months, because it is necessary that spirits be calmed. It is necessary that every side review its position. No one accepted that matters continue as a journey of the beneficent, for the process is hard. Yet, it is necessary that we not return to excess in punishment of each other nor also allow complete neglect. And I believe that Israel today is no longer looking for peace in exchange for land.

Israel wants the peace of surrender. Israel wants to be a part, not separated from, the Arab region. Israel wants the Arab markets to open before it. This is the peace that Israel is looking for. Israel wants peace without offering anything in exchange for this peace. Israel knows all this and it realizes the present situation of the Arabs.

Therefore, if the Arabs don't hasten to regain Arab solidarity as quickly as possible, this period may witness the imposition of treaties on the Arabs that will be harmful to their interests.

The Emigration of the Jews

[AL-SHARQ] The news has frequently repeated [news] about the emigration of the Yemeni Jews to Israel. What is the position of the Yemeni government on this subject?

[Basindowah] Of course, it is the right of any Yemeni citizen whatever be his religion to travel to any country he wants, except Israel and maybe South Africa. Some of the Jews are demanding to travel to some of the European countries or the United States and from there they move to Israel. Of course, we don't have full power or authority over the second country to which they travel, and it is not our right according to our democratic system to prevent their travel to any country, other than Israel or South Africa, because they are citizens enjoying the privileges of this system. And, according to this system, any person can go to the Administration of Emigration and Passports to undertake steps for travel. And, of course, the media outcry that happened is an affront to Yemen. If Yemen prevented any Jew from traveling abroad, the world would stand up, not remain seated, and this is exactly what happened.

[AL-SHARQ] There are remarks from some of the Yemeni expatriates and especially the students abroad concerning the lack of interest of the embassies in the countries in which their problems turn up. How is the Ministry working with regard to this matter?

[Basindowah] This happens, but this depends on the chief of mission, for the chief of mission is able to solve a lot of problems by cooperating with the Foreign Ministry or the competent authorities in the country. For those abroad are also a part of the inside. Therefore, we confirm the importance of those who will represent Yemen abroad.

[AL-SHARQ] The Yemeni government has recently made a decision to shrink the number of workers in the embassies of Yemen. What is your comment?

[Basindowah] Six embassies have been closed, and the number of diplomatic representatives in 16 embassies has shrunk. There has been a decrease in the level of diplomatic representation of a number of embassies from the level of ambassadors to charge d'affaires. The expenses of the Foreign Ministry have also been shrunk to a large degree. This is being completed under the policy of right guidance in spending that the government has followed. [Box, p 5]

Muhammad Salim Basindowah, the present Yemeni foreign minister is considered to be among the brightest political personalities in Yemen.

He was among the fighters in the War of Liberation of South Yemen during the time of British imperialism.

He has held a number of political posts in what was previously called the northern division where he worked as: Minister of Social and Labor Affairs; Minister of Planning and Growth; Minister of Media and Culture; Representative of Yemen in the United Nations; Advisor to the President of the Republic; Member of the Consultative Council and the Advisory Council; Member of the Consultative Council and the Council of Representatives after unity; Foreign Minister in the present government.

* Interior Minister on Security, Borders, Drugs

93LH0030D Doha AL-SHARQ in Arabic 10 Aug 93 p 5

[Unattributed interview with Yemeni Interior Minister Colonel Yahya al-Mutawakkil; place and date not given: "The Security Organizations are Preparing a Plan For Regulation of the Spread of Weapons and Special Controls"]

[Text] The issue of security in any country in the world is among its fundamental and principal issues. Governments work towards settling it, for the satisfaction inherited from security is one of the fundamental pillars of any growing or productive process, and security in the Yemeni Republic is among the hottest issues, for the minor factors that disturb security are many and varied. Among them are: the issue of drugs, which have started to spread in recent times; the spread of weapons among the citizens; and the most important of these issues—the

issue of abduction, which happens to some of the workers in the foreign oil companies operating in Yemen. Also, the phenomenon of the escape of some of those accused in security issues from prison.

"AL-SHARQ" carried all of these issues and other problems which threaten Yemeni security to the top man responsible for battling all violations of security and tranquility, the Interior Minister Colonel Yahya al-Mutawakkil ... And this talk was:

The Escapees from Al-Mansurah Prison

[AL-SHARQ] It has been repeated recently that the accused escapees from al-Mansurah Prison, after having arrived in a certain region, sought refuge with high-level personalities. What is the validity of this information?

[AL-Mutawakkil] The truth is that the information that was repeated was exaggerated and that the most information that we had was that they showed up in the governorate of Marib in Maraad. When we sent forces to the region in which they turned up, the news assured us that they were there and they started out for another region. We are continuing the investigation between the two regions of Marib and al-Jauf.

[AL-SHARQ] It is said that some of them have left Yemen. What is the validity of this information?

[AL-Mutawakkil] I am doubtful.

[AL-SHARQ] Do you believe that the foreign authorities have sympathy for their escape and that they had a role in the breakouts that they undertook in Aden?

[AL-Mutawakkil] I said in frankness previously that there are authorities abroad not only of prison guards, but also from outside of prison. That authority may have a relationship with external authorities. It may have special motives, but it is certain that there was collusion and there was the work of a ringleader for their fugitives.

[AL-SHARQ] Do you believe that the delay in their trial made them think about the device of escaping or making contact with authorities to work up a job like this for them?

[Al-Mutawakkil] This is one hundred percent correct. For if they were to be turned over to the court, the matter would now be over. But this delay was tantamount to a gaining of time for those thinking about escape.

[AL-SHARQ] And what about those previously accused on the issue of breakouts? Why have they not been presented to the court before now?

[Al-Mutawakkil] I must first point out that the previous issues were not a dream in all their details. Since I began my work, I have declared openly that any elements retained by issues such as these must be handed over to the prosecution for investigation of their issues. With regard to the prisoners in the central prison in al-Mansurah, we were busy with final procedures for their referral to the prosecution. There is still nothing preventing them from evading the court.

[AL-SHARQ] What is the number of the accused in issues of breakouts at this time?

[Al-Mutawakkil] We know that the main people accused on the issues of previous breakouts escaped at the time. They didn't escape from the prisons, but they escaped from the places in which they were found, whether in the capital or in some of the districts.

With regard to some of the elements that had a relationship with some of those involved in breakouts, they were arrested that day. These are the ones who are requesting their referral to the courts. As for the juristically accused whom it was assumed would be prosecuted and interrogated, they fled immediately after the breakouts.

[AL-SHARQ] And what about Tariq Al-Fadli?

[Al-Mutawakkil] Tariq Al-Fadli is still subject to being stopped and there is the intention to refer him to the prosecution in the case of all the legal reasons on which the judgment is based having been fulfilled, and this will be completed soon.

Protection of the Foreign Companies

[AL-SHARQ] Is there an arrangement with the foreign companies for the protection of their individuals, their installations and their equipment?

[Al-Mutawakkil] We reached an agreement with the Minister of Oil and the Minister of Defense that we all three would meet and come to an agreement on a system for securing the companies working in Yemen. Before this, a plan was laid down for the security of the movements of the cars belonging to those companies and the foreign travelers on the various roads that connect the governorates of the country.

From the standpoint of putting in place the system that provides for the organization of guarding the sites of these companies, whether those drilling for oil or offices of the companies in the cities, we have this interest.

The Arrangement with the Borders of the Neighboring Countries

[AL-SHARQ] Security issues are linked and crime knows no borders. Is there an arrangement between Yemen and the neighboring countries in the area for combatting crime?

[Al-Mutawakkil] The level of the arrangement is weak and according to what I know no arrangement of any type is found and the Ministry of the Interior intends to have the arrangement with the Sultanate of Oman, especially after the opening of the border crossings between the two countries. We intend to present a project for the arrangement between the two countries for the protection and security of movement and the combatting of actions that violate the security of the two

states as a first step and, God willing, other steps will follow with all the neighboring countries.

[AL-SHARQ] What about the security arrangement between the Arab countries in particular? We are hearing a lot about Arab deliberations on this point.

[Al-Mutawakkil] I was a minister 19 years ago and I mention that there was an arrangement, but recently I have pursued it and found that this arrangement had weakened, especially after the Gulf crisis that affected relations from all sides, including relations regarding Arab security. I believe there is a coming conference in Damascus and the Ministry of the Interior will present its viewpoint for the stimulation of this arrangement through a security project that will be presented in front of this meeting.

Combatting Drugs

[AL-SHARQ] Occurrences relating to drugs were recently disclosed. This is a new phenomenon in Yemen. What is the role of the Ministry in the limiting of this phenomenon?

[Al-Mutawakkil] One of the biggest tasks of the Ministry of the Interior is combatting drugs, because it is among the damaging things that have invaded Yemen in recent years. And, praise God, they are less than what they are in other countries. Even so, we realize that if we don't fight these damaging things, they will spread.

Therefore, we are assigning this subject importance and the Ministry has a special institute for drugs and a special organization for combatting drugs, and the security organizations are undertaking the combat of this injury. Our discovery in the last period was a hashish farm and a lot of smuggled drugs. Their possessors were punished.

Armed Demonstrations

[AL-SHARQ] There are some armed manifestations like personal guards. Manifestations like this, in addition to the fact that they are troublesome manifestations are at the same time one of the reasons for security troubles. So, is there a Ministry plan for the issue of personal protection?

[Al-Mutawakkil] You know that the law permits the carrying of weapons and their possession and with all due respect for the law, it gave more than was necessary, because the permission to carry and possess weapons without restrictions is powerful, an issue that needs to be given attention.

But the law, in its stipulations, gave the Ministry of the Interior the regulation of the carrying of weapons. And in light of this stipulation, the Ministry has the right to consider a regulation and a system for the way to carry weapons in the cities in order to limit this phenomenon and not allow these troublesome manifestations for the citizens and for general security. And we, immediately after termination of preparation of this system, will spread it in the newspapers and other forms of media so that it is before all the authorities—in front of the Council of Representatives and the Council of Ministers in order for acceptance of this entire system, which will make clear how much the Minister has the right to have escorts with him and how much his escorts are entitled to carry weapons, etc., with regard to a member of the Council of Representatives or any official or other personality.

This system will be ready before the end of this month and we will insist that it is applied, but on the condition of its acceptance from the members of the two legislative and executive powers, because we will begin from them. It is necessary that this regulation obtain the interaction of these two agencies. I ask for support from the brothers of the members of the Councils of Representatives and Ministers. Exceptional circumstances are present everywhere.

The Following of the Performance of the Security Organizations

[AL-SHARQ] Given the large tasks of the policeman, how are you convinced that he is undertaking his role without any excesses or violations?

[Al-Mutawakkil] No job is without the presence of violations and errors. In spite of that, we desire that such things not happen. We are undertaking direct prosecution, whether by me or the deputy or attorneys, we are undertaking the daily pursuit for knowledge of the performance and general management of the pursuit is in the Ministry. We have the criminal research of every agency that watches the police in precincts and locations in various regions. Some of these violations are very unfortunately still found, but the handling of this is not done through warning and instruction, rather from changing the system itself and the divisions of the police. If the system is not changed in these agencies, it will be difficult to condemn the violations and the wrong practices and thus, we are treating them in an immediate way and we are trying to establish a system that reduces these violations.

[AL-SHARQ] The Ministry resorted to the spreading of information relating to the events. Does the Ministry have a plan for establishing an information agency to follow the crime phenomenon so that it is before the decisionmakers and all the accused?

[Al-Mutawakkil] We wanted in the beginning to present information on the event to the press by means of a daily report for purposes of spreading it. Then we undertook the preparation of analytical weekly, monthly, quarterly, and semi-annual reports. These analyses depend on comparison and give indications of the security situation every week, every month, and every year. From these conclusions, analyses, and indicators, we are undertaking the correction of any unsound procedure or supporting any step that we found was effective.

Evolution of the Security Function

[AL-SHARQ] You occupied a post of the Ministry of the Interior during the seventies and you returned to it about the mid-nineties. Do you notice an evolution in the security function now? And is there a plan for the development of this organization?

[Al-Mutawakkil] There is no doubt that the security function has evolved beyond imagination and, accordingly, crime has evolved, acts of dismemberment and robbery have evolved, external phenomena have entered the country draining security and the value of the country, and phenomena dangerous to the health of the citizens like drugs. Some bad phenomena, from the standpoint of the spread of weapons and from the standpoint of the great controversy over the land and real estate have entered—these and other developments that pervaded the life of society and by their volume reflected themselves on security, which is unfortunately not able to keep up with the evolution of crime and the multiplying of these phenomena. But, there are serious attempts that were started in the past to curb crime whatever its form or type and we now are continuing for the sake of catching up with this development that is affecting the size of crime.

In addition to this, the tasks have doubled, especially after unification of the Yemeni homeland. For there are conspiracies and dangers to this homeland and to the single state. Thus, there are greater responsibilities for the security personnel to confront these dangers. We all realize that now. [Box, p 5]

- He has worked in the army since the inception of the revolution
- He occupied the position of Minister of the Interior in the mid-seventies in what was known as the Arab Yemeni Republic.
- He was appointed Ambassador to the United States and to some of the European countries.
- He was appointed governor of the governorate of Ab Hatta [name as published] at the beginning of the nineties.
- He presently occupies the post of President of the Political Bureau of the Permanent Committee of the Popular General Congress, and he is a member of the General Committee of the Conference and he is a Minister of the Interior in the new al-'Atas government.

Gunmen Reportedly Attack French Oil Company Facility

JN0909180793 Baghdad INA in English 1530 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Text] Sanaa, Sep 9, INA—A Yemeni Interior Ministry source said that nearly 50 gunmen attacked on Sep.1, installations of the French Totale Oil Company in Shabwa Province.

During the attack, a Yemeni soldier was killed and two others wounded, while the attackers took to flight, the source affirmed. The source confirmed that the Yemeni forces stationed in the area arrested on Tuesday [7 September] 10 persons who were involved in this operation.

Ramadan Affirms National Solidarity, Support for Saddam

JN1209193193 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Sep 93

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and vice president, has said that the true representatives of the Arab nation and its stature in the community of nations are the mujahidin who are convinced of the justice of their cause and committed to keeping up the struggle for existence. They are the ones who decide their nation's fate, the vice president added during a meeting with Dr. 'Ali al-Faqir, deputy chairman of the Islamic Popular Conference. Despite the sanctions and unrelenting conspiratorial pressure on their security and unity, the Iraqi people and government are increasingly rallying around the leadership of Saddam Husayn. The Iraqis are growing stronger with each passing day as they pursue reconstruction in a spirit of solidarity, confident in the march toward a brighter future led by Saddam, Ramadan added. The Arab masses have resisted all forms of conspiracy and aggression and torn up all the agreements that militated against their dignity and destiny. Certain Arab cases of defeatism and capitulation only strengthen the Iraqis' attachment to their principles and worthy causes, Ramadan declared.

Prime Minister Meets Islamic Popular Conference Envoy

JN1409110293 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0920 GMT 14 Sep 93

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Sep (INA)—Prime Minister Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir received here today Dr. 'Ali al-Faqir, deputy chairman of the Islamic Popular Conference, who is on a visit to Iraq.

The prime minister told Mr. al-Faqir that Iraq holds in high regard the brother Jordanian people's solidarity with the Iraqi people as they hold out against imperialist-Zionist-Atlantic plots. The situation is an expression of a common Arab destiny, the prime minister added.

Dr. al-Faqir voiced his limitless support for the Iraqi people and leadership and their stand against enemy plots.

Official Cited on Bilateral Talks in New Delhi

JN1009202993 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Sep 93

[Text] Foreign Ministry Under Secretary 'Abd-al-Jabbar 'Umar al-Duri has said that the Iraqi-Indian talks [recently held in New Delhi] have been marked by a spirit of cooperation and frankness, something that reflects warm ties between the two friendly countries.

In a statement to a correspondent of the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY in Amman today, 'Abd-al-Jabbar 'Umar indicated that he met, during his visit to India, with Indian External Affairs Minister Dinesh Singh as well as Minister of State for External Affairs Salman Khurshid. He also held talks with senior officials of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs.

Al-Duri added that the Iraqi delegation also met with other ministers as well as officials of Indian organizations which are maintaining ties of friendship with Iraqi counterparts. He indicated that his talks with Indian officials focused on bilateral ties and issues of common interest.

'Abd-al-Jabbar 'Umar al-Duri stated that Indian officials have affirmed their country's desire to see the embargo clamped on Iraq lifted so as to halt the agonies of the Iraqi people.

Al-Duri added that the Indian external affairs minister extended an invitation to his Iraqi counterpart to visit India. He indicated that a date for the visit will be set through diplomatic channels.

German Paper Reports Assassination Attempt on Saddam

AU1409081093 Hamburg BILD in German 14 Sep 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Attack on Saddam"]

[Text] Baghdad—Twenty "Islamic Revolutionaries" carried out an attack on Iraq's dictator; 25 people died in the hail of bullets—Saddam survived uninjured. Exiled Iraqis report that 120 conspirators were executed.

Arrests, Executions, Assassination Attempt Reported

NC1309152693 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Text] Reports from Baghdad say that the ostracized regime arrested a number of retired officers in Mosul, including Staff Major General Bashir al-Talib, Air Force Maj. Gen. Salib al-Bas, Staff Maj. Gen. Husayn al-Babili, and Maj. Gen. Salim Khadr. Their fate is still unknown, but there are strong rumors that they have been executed.

The dictatorial regime has reopened the files of many officers throughout Iraq and is reviewing their position concerning the March uprising that followed the regime's defeat in the Gulf war.

Reports from Baghdad indicate that security service officials have also been arrested. The regime is investigating the relations of some of those officials with others who have been liquidated, such as Fadil al-Barraq, former chief of intelligence, and Staff Lieutenant General Thabit Sultan al-Tikriti, former Army deputy commander.

The reports suggest that the regime is questioning the loyalty of a large number of its supporters. Cracks are showing in the regime's internal structure.

Arrivals from Baghdad say that regime of tyrant Saddam is now reevaluating its position on the domestic scene and reassessing the loyalty of the security services. The Army, the police, security services, and officials close to the regime are all being reevaluated.

According to well-informed sources, what appears on the surface as routine security checks involves more than that. The tyrant, the sources say, wants to ensure the full loyalty of those services. Saddam, the sources add, suspects that there is increased opposition to him and trusts no one, even those who are closest to him.

There are unconfirmed reports that an assassination attempt took place against Saddam Husayn near his home town, Tikrit, on 25 August. According to AP, about 20 Tikrit inhabitants attacked the tyrant's motorcade on the town's outskirts. An intensive exchange of fire took place between the tyrant's guards and the attackers. The exchange left 25 people dead on both sides. The regime quickly responded by arresting and executing a number of the town's notables and officers. AP says that it has not received any independent confirmation of that report.

According to Western diplomats, about 34 civilians and soldiers were executed in Iraq recently.

Six Army Personnel Reportedly Join Opposition

NC1109175993 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Sep 93

[Text] An informed source has stated that an Iraqi Army officer and five soldiers joined the peshmerga forces. The source said that the Iraqi personnel fled aboard a boat in the [name indistinct] lake near the city of Dahuk and handed themselves over to the unified Kurdistan army. They had with them a machine gun, two Kalashnikov rifles, and (?binoculars).

Regime Said To Suffer Casualties in Resistance Attack

JN1209101693 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 0445 GMT 12 Sep 93

[Text] A mujahidin source has said that an explosive charge went off at the al-Nasr center near the [word indistinct] prison in the al-Dibilshat area in the al-'Amarah Governorate a few days ago. The source stressed that the explosion of the charge, which was planted by one of the men of the Islamic resistance forces, killed or wounded several personnel of criminal Saddam's henchmen in the center.

The city of al-'Amarah had earlier witnessed a similar explosion of another bomb planted by one of the Islamic resistance fighters near the al-Tahqiqat base inside the al-'Amarah security directorate. The explosion killed a saddamist criminal called Colonel Kazim al-Silibawi, alias Abu-Wajdi, who occupies the post of the political assistant of the security directorate in al-'Amarah. The explosion also killed Major Fulayyih and injured several mercenaries of the tyrant regime.

Customs Authorities Seize Lead, Cars, Currency

JN1009164593 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 7 Sep 93 p 2

[Excerpt] Customs authorities have managed to seize large quantities of lead, estimated at 9 tonnes, as well spare parts, cigarettes, autos, precious antiquities, carpets, watches, foreign currency, and copper.

This was announced to AL-IRAQ by Bustam 'Abbud al-Jinabi, director general of Customs Department. He said the department's plan to control customs border posts will conserve national wealth and prevent it from being smuggled abroad by tightly controlling incoming and outgoing traffic. [passage omitted]

Judge Seeks Defendant Attendance at VOA Case Hearing

JN1109164393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1256 GMT 11 Sep 93

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 11 Sep (INA)—The al-Karradah Court of First Instance in Baghdad this morning began hearings on the case brought by 'Umar Jum'ah, a former Voice of America correspondent, against the radio. This is the first case of its kind to be examined by an Iraqi court.

Court Judge Sa'di Sadiq Ahmad, in the presence of Fathi Abu-Surur and Husayn Sa'id 'Isa, counselors of the claimant, decided to again notify the defendant of the need to attend the case hearing, set to be held at 0900 on 10 October. The court decided to ask for clarification from the Foreign Ministry about whether the defendant is covered under the political immunity law and the Vienna Convention of 1961, which was endorsed by Iraq in 1962. [passage omitted]

Rabin To Visit Morocco Following Washington Ceremony

NC1409101993 Paris AFP in English 0934 GMT 14 Sep 93

[By Barry Parker]

[Excerpts] Jerusalem, Sept 14 (AFP)—Israel and Morocco are "99 percent certain" to establish diplomatic relations on Tuesday [14 September] during a dramatic visit by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, a senior government official told AFP.

"It's 99 percent certain that Morocco will sign the opening of diplomatic relations today," the official at Rabin's office said.

Rabin, fresh from Monday's signing of the historic Palestinian autonomy agreement at the White House, would meet King Hassan II in Rabat during the afternoon, Police Minister and acting prime minister Moshe Shahal announced.

Rabin had received an invitation from the king to go to Rabat to sign a protocol to launch ties, said the official, who asked not to be named.

An Israeli air force plane carrying the premier and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres back from Washington would land shortly in the Moroccan capital for a six-hour stopover.

The Moroccan government would release an official statement Tuesday to mark the opening of full diplomatic relations, he added.

Amid tight security at Rabat airport, sources close to the Moroccan foreign ministry acknowledged a meeting between the king and Rabin was possible but warned that the setting up of full ties was "totally premature."

The Israeli prime minister was more likely to thank King Hassan's long-standing role in the Middle East peace process, they said.

The official at Rabin's office said the prime minister was then expected to go on to Tunisia and also to open relations with Tunis, although that visit had been fully confirmed.

The prime minister was now not scheduled to return to Israel until the early hours of Wednesday.

"Now the Palestinians recognize Israel there is no longer any reason why the Arab countries with which we have no border dispute should not normalize relations with our country," Shahal told military radio.

He expected several other Arab nations would soon launch diplomatic relations.

Shahal said: "We have no announcement from the prime minister that he is going to Tunisia, but the question has been raised in recent days."

State radio reported that Tunisia had indicated it was ready to exchange ambassadors with Israel if Morocco took the first initiative.

Only Egypt of all the Arab countries has so far made peace and opened diplomatic ties with the Jewish state through a 1979 peace treaty following the Camp David accords.

In Washington, Israel's U.N. ambassador Gad Ya'aqobi said that between five and eight Islamic nations were expected to establish relations soon with the Jewish state.

"I personally think that between five and eight Moslem countries will set up diplomatic ties with Israel this year," he said.

Ya'aqobi said the signing of the PLO-Israel autonomy agreement made the breakthrough possible.

Israel and Jordan were to sign an agenda for further peace negotiations on Tuesday in Washington, the U.S. State Department said. [passage omitted]

Rabin left Andrews Air Force Base outside Washington at 0330 GMT after shaking hands with PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat to seal the reconciliation. He also had talks with President Bill Clinton.

King Hassan provided the plane in which 'Arafat flew to Washington for the signing ceremony.

Israeli state radio reported that Afghanistan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia were other countries most likely to open relations.

A radio correspondent aboard Rabin's plane before it touched down in Rabat broadcast details of the visit and said Rabin would lay a wreath at the tomb of Hassan's father Mohammad V.

The visit had been finalised at the last minute in Washington following several days of contacts, the correspondent said. Rabin would give a press conference in Rabat. [passage omitted]

Shahal Comments on Rabin Trip

TA1409081293 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 14 Sep 93

[Telephone interview with Moshe Shahal, police minister and acting prime minister, by Ya'el Dan and Mikha Friedman—live]

[Excerpts] [Friedman] We would like confirmation of the latest headline that Yitzhaq Rabin is on his way to Morocco and is due to land there within minutes.

[Shahal] On its way home, the prime minister's entourage will stop over in Morocco and will arrive home later than planned.

[Friedman] What are they doing in Morocco?

[Shahal] I suppose that they are going to meet the king.

[Dan] Is the establishment of relations with Morocco in the near future on the agenda?

[Shahal] I would not like to make predictions on that before the Moroccan king and perhaps other Arab states issue announcements. There was talk, however, prior to the prime minister's trip and after the signing of the document of principles, about some Arab states having said in pronouncements, through feelers, or in talks with us, as well as with the U.S. Administration, that there is no reason why they should not form diplomatic ties with Israel as there is now a state of normalization with the Palestinians. That is, the earlier excuse—the Palestinian issue, which served as the reason why Arab states that wanted nothing of us and shared no border with us did not have relations with us—has been removed. Now that the PLO has recognized Israel's right to exist, there is no excuse for not establishing ties with us. Normalization is, therefore, expected between us and some of the Arab states.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0700 GMT on 14 September adds that Minister Shahal mentioned the Gulf states as being among the Arab states that might form diplomatic ties with Israel. "Minister Shahal said he has not been informed about the possibility of the prime minister going on to Tunis from Morocco in order to establish diplomatic ties with Tunisia as well, although that possibility was raised in the past few days."]

[Dan] The prime minister said yesterday he is in a hurry to leave Washington for home for reasons he could not go into. Can we assume that the flight to Morocco is the reason he was in such a hurry, or are there other things waiting for him here?

[Shahal] No, yesterday passed quietly. The prime minister is constantly updated, so that except for the television and radio interviews for Rosh Hashana, I do not see any special reason for returning quickly. [passage omitted]

[Friedman] Let us return to the serious current political issue, the confederation idea Yasir 'Arafat pronounced on CNN's Larry King program. From that, it sounds as though the Palestinians have put off, at least for the time being, their dream of setting up a Palestinian state and want to form a confederation with Jordan. Have you heard any developments on that?

[Shahal] The confederation issue is much more deeply ingrained than we think. The Palestinians know they are incapable of being independent of Jordan. This dependence is a given fact. Something surprising happened in recent months and weeks in articles and public statements by PLO leaders. They are interested in balancing their dependence on Jordan with a link with Israel. We should assume that such declarations and articles are not accidental, because they are usually approved by Yasir 'Arafat. I would like to add that the issue was under discussion in 1987, with King Husayn calling for a confederation between Jordan and the Palestinians on condition that a state not be established, while 'Arafat said that a Palestinian state would be set up for 30 minutes and then a confederation would be formed.

[Dan] Let us return to the present. 'Arafat said: We decided on confederation. Did Israel know about it, and is it part of the document of principles or a secret accord between Israel and the PLO?

[Shahal] First, we must get rid of the James Bond atmosphere. I keep hearing about secret accords and agreements. Whatever there is has been made public. There are talks. The confederation issue is not being raised at random. As I said, the Palestinians have recently been stressing that they want balanced dependence [tlut meqazezet], meaning a link with Israel. In addition, they say: The only way for the West to accept the Palestinians on center stage and not in the wings is for them to remain linked with Israel. There is a basis for the talk, but there is no agreement. I would not be surprised, however, if it will be a subject for discussions within the framework of the permanent settlement.

'Thousands' Cheer Accord in Jerusalem, Gaza

TA1309173593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Text] Tens of thousands of people thronged the YMCA stadium in East Jerusalem during the signing ceremony in Washington. Youth orchestras and flag bearers flying PLO flags marched around the stadium cheered by the crowd. Our correspondent Ya'el Ben-Yehuda reports that rumors that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] men would disrupt the gathering proved wrong and the crowd dispersed quietly.

The signing of the Israel-PLO agreement was greeted with great enthusiasm in the Gaza Strip, with thousands of cheering people taking to the streets. Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan reports that a commercial strike called by Hamas was observed in the Gaza Strip until 1700 [1500 GMT], but that Fatah men and supporters of the agreement began venting their feelings as soon as the strike was over. Our correspondent points out that local inhabitants gave flowers to IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers, and in several places they defended Border Police personnel who ran into big mobs with their own bodies.

PLO Flag Hoisted Over Orient House in East Jerusalem

TA1309140593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Text] The PLO flag was hoisted over Orient House—the PLO headquarters in East Jerusalem—in a ceremony organized by several aides of Faysal al-Husayni at midday today. The ceremony was attended by about

1,000 residents of East Jerusalem, as well as representatives of consulates and churches. After the flag was hoisted, many flag-carrying people filled the streets of East Jerusalem.

Our correspondent Ya'el Ben-Yehuda reports that East Jerusalem stores remain closed, and cars adorned with PLO flags are driving to and fro, honking their horns.

Knesset Member Limor Livnat demands that the Foreign Ministry caution foreign consuls in Jerusalem to refrain from participating in ceremonies such as the one at Orient House.

Palestinian Gunman Shot Dead After Wounding Soldier

NC1409091793 Paris AFP in English 0901 GMT 14 Sep 93

[Text] Gaza City, Occupied Gaza Strip, Sept 14 (AFP)—A Palestinian gunman shot and wounded an Israeli soldier in occupied Gaza City on Tuesday [14 September] before being killed, witnesses said.

The Palestinian opened fire on the troops after reaching an army look-out post on the roof of a municipal building.

The troops shot back and killed the attacker, who was carrying a Koran, the Muslim holy book, said Palestinian witnesses who saw the corpse.

Rabin Meets SHAS Rabbi on PLO Agreement

TA1209173793 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 12 Sep 93

[Excerpt] I do not take back the halakah ruling whereby the saving of life is more important than territories. This is what Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef, SHAS' [Torah Observing Sephardim] spiritual leader, told Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef's decision as to whether SHAS will support the Gaza-Jericho First agreement and whether it will remain in the coalition will be made only after Rosh Hashanah. The interior minister informed the cabinet today of his resignation which will take effect at noon on Tuesday. Our correspondent Sefi Hendler reports:

At noon today, prior to his departure for Washington, the prime minister met with SHAS' spiritual leader, Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef. Rabbi Yosef did not commit himself to anything, but made it clear to Rabin that he remained faithful to his halakah ruling, whereby the saving of life is more important than territories. This generates optimism in the Labor Party which attributes great importance to this comment by the rabbi. It should be emphasized that Rabbi Yosef's decision about Rabin's request that SHAS support the agreement with the Palestinians will be made only after Rosh Hashanah, but sources who are close to Rabbi Yosef believe that the worst scenario the Labor Party will face is that SHAS will abstain in the vote in the Knesset.

When the prime minister and the rabbi dealt with the ruling by the High Court of Justice on Minister Der'i's and Deputy Minister Pinhasi's cases, Rabbi Yosef sounded emotional and agitated. He did not give an answer to Rabin's request that SHAS return to fill its ministerial positions. Well then, there are no clear-cut replies to Rabin's questions, except for the rabbi's commitment to the halakah ruling that saving of life is more important than territories. [passage omitted]

Der'i: SHAS Not Obliged To Vote for Agreement

TA1309121493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Text] Interior Minister Arye Der'i said that so far, no one has succeeded in convincing Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef that the peace agreement with the PLO will bring about the realization of his famous Halakah ruling that saving human lives takes precedence over holding on to territories. Our correspondent Nava Kohen reports:

[Begin recording] [Kohen] Interior Minister Arye Der'i was greeted very warmly by local council heads from across the country. Whether Jews, Arabs, Druze, residents of the territories, residents of the development towns, or mayors of the larger cities, they all heaped lavish praise on the minister. Al-Tayyibah Mayor Tariq 'Abd-al-Hay told Der'i that if it were not for him, Israel would not have signed the peace agreement with the PLO. After all the congratulations and good wishes, however, Der'i said that SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] is under no obligation to vote for the agreement.

[Der'i] SHAS has not committed itself on anything to anyone. It is under no obligation to do anything for anyone. We have resigned from all our coalition and government posts. Today, we are discussing our position on this issue solely on the basis of the real issue: peace and security for the people of Israel. There are absolutely no other considerations on the agenda. I feel that this is the first time we can discuss the issue in an objective fashion. We hold no positions and are not in the government or in the coalition. All the statements made yesterday by people who said that I or SHAS had made some kind of commitment are simply lies. Perhaps they were merely expressing their own hopes. Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef has not so much as hinted regarding his position—not because he knows something and will not tell, but because he is really agonizing over it. There is a great deal of pressure from rabbis and Torah sages who think we should vote against the peace agreement. On the other hand, there is also pressure to the contrary. I do not envy Rabbi Yosef the grave responsibility that rests upon his shoulders. We shall wait for his decision.

[Kohen] Der'i said that up till now no one, including Yitzhaq Rabin, has succeeded in convincing Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef that the agreement with the PLO will help implement his Halakah ruling that saving lives takes

precedence over territories. On the contrary, Der'i said, the new agreement places 150,000 settlers in mortal danger.

[Der'i] Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef's ruling that the sanctity of human life takes precedence over the sanctity of territory remains valid. The agreement with 'Arafat and the Palestinians, however, does not weigh the sanctity of human lives against the sanctity of territories. No territories are being returned here. This agreement permits people who were formerly our bitter enemies and the extent of whose commitment to the peace process remains unclear to enter the territories of Eretz Yisra'el. This does not constitute a danger to Israel's very existence, like Syria or Jordan. This agreement will not prevent any wars. On the other hand, it puts a very large population of some 150,000 people in mortal danger. We do not know what to tell these people. This is the question. If Rabbi Yosef becomes convinced that this is really a question of the sanctity of man versus the sanctity of land, then he will decide; however, the problem is that yesterday the prime minister, as well as those who met with Rabbi Yosef until now, failed to prove to him that this agreement meets the criteria of his Halakah ruling.

[Kohen] Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef is scheduled to meet with Knesset Member Ari'el Sharon and Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur over the coming days. At the beginning of next week, he will meet with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin again, and then he will decide how SHAS will vote in the Knesset: whether in favor of the agreement with the PLO, against it, or whether his party will abstain. [end recording]

Der'i Submits Resignation at Cabinet Session

TA1209085393 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 12 Sep 93

[Excerpt] Minister Arye Der'i submitted his letter of resignation to the cabinet a short time ago. The resignation will go into effect in 48 hours. The resignation of SHAS's [Torah Observing Sephardim] deputy ministers is expected to follow suit shortly.

Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef, SHAS's spiritual mentor, will receive the decision on how SHAS Knesset members are to vote in the debate on the agreement with the PLO after Rosh Hashana and following his meetings with the prime minister—scheduled for today—the heads of the opposition and the defense establishment. This was said by Arye Der'i after he left the cabinet session a short while ago:

[Begin Der'i recording] We must distinguish between the issue of the vote on peace and the coalition issue. These are two completely separate issues. The issue of peace is a separate issue which is vital for Israel, both in terms of its chances and its dangers. Regarding this issue our personal opinions count for little. The significant thing is the opinion of Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef, because it is an issue of halacha [Jewish law] ruling. We will do whatever he decides. The coalition issue is also a separate issue. [passage omitted]

Two Deputy Ministers Resign

TA1209143393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 12 Sep 93

[Text] Rabbi Moshe Maya, the deputy education minister, has resigned. He handed his letter of resignation to Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein a short time ago, and the resignation went into effect at once. He thanked the minister for the cooperation and explained that he was unable to remain in his post in view of the situation in which SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] has found itself.

Minister Amnon Rubinstein told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that he regretted Rabbi Maya's resignation. Rubinstein added that it had been agreed with the prime minister that no replacement for Rabbi Maya would be appointed for the time being in the hope that he would return to his post within a short time.

Deputy Construction and Housing Minister Arye Gamli'el handed his letter of resignation to Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer at midday today. Our correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that the construction and housing minister voiced his appreciation for Rabbi Gamli'el's efforts and his regret on the resignation. Minister Ben-Eli'ezer said he was positive SHAS would remain in the coalition.

Third Deputy Minister Resigns

TA1209162993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 12 Sep 93

[Text] Religious Affairs Deputy Minister Refa'el Pinhasi submitted his resignation to the prime minister a short time ago. He wished his resignation to go into effect on 14 September.

Our correspondent Mikha'el Tuchfeld reports that the resignation process of the three SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] deputy ministers was thus completed.

Bridge Traffic Limitations, Closing Announced

JN1309171993 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1550 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Text] Amman, 13 Sep (PETRA)—Public Security sources have announced that the King Husayn Bridge will be partially opened for travelers the day after tomorrow, Wednesday [15 September], and a limited number of travelers will be permitted to cross it until 1030.

The sources also said that the bridge would be closed to traffic on Thursday, 16 September.

Announcement of Agenda With Israel Said Imminent

NC1309124393 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Statement by Talal al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, to VOL correspondent Andre Muhawij; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] Jordan and Israel have agreed on an agenda of the topics and issues which must be dealt with and discussed. Only minor alterations remain. The Jordanian delegation deliberately slowed down the pace of the Jordanian-Israeli talks until it could see real progress on the Palestinian-Israeli track. This is because the Palestinian issue is the core of the problem. This was part of the coordination between the Jordanian and Palestinian delegations and among the Arab delegations in general. Now that this progress has been made and will result in the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, Jordan will positively view the announcement of the agenda in the next two days. Jordan is now positively and seriously studying this possibility.

Editorial: Agenda 'Reasonable Option'

JN1309145393 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 13 Sep 903 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "Palestine Day in Washington"]

[Text] It is clear that the zero hour has come, and that today will be the day of the Palestinian-Israeli settlement and the signing of the Gaza-Jericho agreement in Washington under U.S. patronage.

Hence, the PLO option will materialize through the establishment of self-rule in the Gaza Strip and through waiting for the results of negotiations on the final stage.

The negotiations on the Jordanian-Israeli track may produce an agreement on an agenda tomorrow. Jordan has waited for the results of negotiations on the Palestinian-Israeli track to announce the agenda agreement. Jordan linked its position with the Palestinian position because the Palestine question is the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict and is the Arabs' first cause. Furthermore, Jordan believes in the need to strengthen the Palestinian negotiators' hand and to avoid any step that could weaken their hand.

Jordan, which has always been eager to maintain independent Palestinian decision making and which has adopted—from the beginning—the principle of respecting the Palestinians' decisions and choices, and has contributed and offered sacrifices in order to crystallize the Palestinian character and to defend its independence, has not and will not make any step that would undermine or weaken this trend. On the contrary, Jordan has made every effort to mobilized Arab and international support for the independent Palestinian position.

It is known, as His Highness Prince Hasan, the regent, has emphasized, that Jordan showed respect for the Palestinian choice concerning the Gaza-Jericho agreement and has not opposed the accord.

However, as Prince Hasan emphasized, Jordan is directly concerned with the Palestinian-Israeli relationship that may result from the agreement. Jordan's acceptance or rejection of the agreement is based on a defensive stance, and its position on the subject of sovereignty over holy Jerusalem is firm and cannot be changed.

When Jordan delayed announcing its agreement on an agenda with the Israeli side, it did so because it believes in a comprehensive solution on the four tracks.

Since an agreement was reached on the Palestinian-Israeli track, and the Syrian-Israeli and the Lebanese-Israeli tracks are close to reaching agreements, the announcement of the Jordanian-Israeli agenda agreement has now become a reasonable option.

'Arafat, Rabin Move Toward 'Peaceful Coexistence'

JN1409115193 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 14 Sep 93 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "The Beginning of Palestinian-Israeli Coexistence"]

[Text] The Palestinians and the Israelis have signed the Gaza-Jericho agreement, hoping that this agreement will be implemented without delay and within the set timetable, and wagering on future coexistence between the two parties.

Thus, a chapter of conflict in the Palestinian-Israeli relations has come to an end and a new chapter is opened to give a comprehensive peace a chance.

Signing the Palestinian-Israeli agreement in a grand ceremony at the U.S. White House under the patronage of President Bill Clinton indicates tangible progress on the Palestinian-Israeli track of negotiations.

Now that President 'Arafat has shaken hands with yesterday's enemies—Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin

and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres—a wide, qualitative step has been taken toward peaceful coexistence between the Israelis and the Palestinians, leaving behind struggle to arrive at peace of their own free will.

As for Jordan, as His Majesty King Husayn and His Highness Crown Prince Hasan have affirmed, it respects the Palestinian choice and considers the Palestinian-Israeli agreement a major achievement and a historic step chosen by the two parties.

However, as His Highness Prince Hasan affirmed, Jordan attaches great importance to pan-Arab security, and calls on the international community and influential big powers to establish the pillars of security in the region and change the lives of its peoples for the better.

As for the negotiations on the Jordanian-Israeli track, it is expected that the agenda will be declared today. Thus, the journey toward implementing it on the ground will begin. This, according to His Highness Prince Hasan, should be based on the relevant international legitimacy resolutions and the land for peace principle, on condition that peace be achieved on all tracks without exception.

In this context, as affirmed by His Majesty King Husayn and His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, Jordan welcomes the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and is ready to declare the agenda on its track with Israel today. It is looking forward to the achievement of a comprehensive peace on all tracks and to make available the appropriate circumstances for ensuring pan-Arab and regional security and changing the lives of peoples toward the better.

King Husayn's Concern for Jerusalem's Holy Sites Noted

JN1009170393

[Editorial Report] Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic at 0920 GMT on 10 September carries Friday prayers from Martyr 'Abdullah Bin-al-Husayn mosque in Amman. His Highness Crown Prince Hasan was present at the mosque to perform Friday prayers. Jordan's Prince Faysal Bin-al-Husayn, Prince Ghazi Bin-Muhammad, the Royal Court chief, the chief justice, the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, and other officials were also present for prayers.

Shaykh Muhammad Hashim al-Khalidi delivered the Friday sermon. He spoke about the "victories" the Hashemite clan had achieved for Arabs and Muslims, and of its sons' efforts and sacrifices for the sake of safeguarding the Islamic and Arab identity of the holy places. The foremost of these, he says, is holy Jerusalem, and he spoke the importance of returning it to its legitimate owners.

Highlighting King 'Abdallah's [King Husayn's grandfather] role in safeguarding the holy places, the preacher says he was "the king martyred on the soil of Jerusalem by a treasonous hand which sought, at an early time, to kill the nation's hopes for safeguarding rights and for protecting land and holy places, the pearl of which is the al-Aqsa Mosque, on the pure land of Jerusalem."

Praising King Husayn's care for the holy places, the preacher says: "Then comes the role of King Husayn Bin-Talal to stress this nation's unity, pride, dignity, and fraternity. He did his utmost to achieve this. In this regard, he has no ambition other than pleasing God." He adds: "The king meets with world officials to tell them that our right, and that of the Muslims in Jerusalem, is an old and eternal one. The exclusion of the holy places, the awqaf, and the Islamic courts from the decision on disengagement (with the West Bank) has taken place only to affirm the Islamic and Arab identity of Jerusalem."

Continuing to praise King Husayn's care for the holy places, the preacher touches on the king's recent order to reconstruct Saladin pulpit. He says: "All this is for the sake of declaring legal and legitimate rights, and for declaring that the nation has a firm right in Jerusalem. This right must not be encroached on."

The preacher then praises the crown prince's recent remarks on Jordan's stand toward the Palestinian cause.

Prince Hasan Receives Sudanese Minister, U.S. Delegation

JN1309205593 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan received Sudanese Interior Minister 'Abd-al-Rahim Husayn, who handed him a message from Sudanese leader 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir addressed to his majesty the king. Prince Hasan and the Sudanese envoy discussed current issues in the Arab world and the Mideast peace process, as well as bilateral ties.

The crown prince also conferred with a visiting U.S. delegation probing the impact of the UN economic embargo on Iraq. His royal highness reviewed with the American team the negative effects and the losses incurred by the embargo on Jordan, which has abided by UN resolutions. It is not only Jordan that has suffered as a result of the embargo, Prince Hasan said, but Turkey as well. He said reports by the children's fund, UNICEF, revealed that deaths among Iraqi children were caused by lack of medical equipment in hospitals and not just because of shortages of medicine.

Debt Rescheduling Accord Reached With London Club

JN0709202693 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 7 Sep 93 p 1

[Text] Finance Minister Sami Qammuh said yesterday that Jordan will sign an agreement with creditor commercial banks—members of the London Club—next month.

Qammuh added that the agreement will reduce debts due by 60 percent, for a total of approximately $1 billion.

The minister went on to say: Jordan has reached a draft blanket agreement with the creditor commercial banks. He noted that the terms of this agreement will, directly or indirectly, reduce Jordan's debts to creditor commercial banks by 60 percent.

In remarks made during a meeting with prominent businessmen, the finance minister said Jordan will reschedule almost $895 million in debts and interest it owes to commercial banks, as is provided for in the agreement.

Qammuh noted that the agreement will reduce the average annual interest payments due to commercial banks to $41 million, which will be paid over a 20-year period. The current average annual interest payment is $82 million.

Qammuh added that the Paris Club of creditor nations has also agreed to reschedule $252 million of debts and interest over at least 15 years, with a 7-year grace period.

Germany To Grant DM3.7 Million for Water Project

JN1109090093 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 11 Sep 93 p 3

[Text] Amman (PETRA)—Germany is expected to grant Jordan 3.7 million German marks in the next three years to help finance water basins management project according to a memorandum of understanding signed in Amman Thursday.

The project, to begin in 1994, will involve the assistance of the German Agency for Technical Cooperation which signed the agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture following talks between a corporation team and ministry officials.

It entails measures to protect soil and vegetation cover as well as water resources and selected water basins.

It also provides for training of local personnel in modern means of managing water basins in different regions starting with the al-Karak area in the south.

The two sides will cooperate in providing guidance and advice to local farmers in modern farming and management of farmlands, protection of water basins from pollution, help in the afforestation process and assistance to the concerned authorities in creating natural pasture lands.

No Pleas Entered as Assassination Trial Begins in Marka

JN1109104293 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 11 Sep 93 p 10

[Special to the JORDAN TIMES by Sana' 'Atiyah]

[Text] Marka—The trial of 10 suspects accused of conspiring to assassinate His Majesty King Husayn opened at the State Security Court in Marka Thursday amid tight security.

The court clerk read out the detailed charges against the 10, two of whom are tried in absentia, to a crowded courtroom. Dressed in khaki prison uniforms and slippers, the eight defendants heard the prosecution's three charges against them.

The first charge is plotting to assassinate the King at Mu'tah University during a graduation ceremony on June 26 and to replace the regime with an Islamic caliphate state.

The suspects, five of whom were students at the military university 130 kilometres south of Amman, were also accused of trying to "change the Constitution of the state through illegal and violent means," and belonging to an illegal group, the Islamic Liberation Party (Hizb al-Tahrir al-Islami).

After the charges were read out, defence lawyers refused to allow their clients to enter any plea. They cited two reason for this objection: That the arrests and conditions of their detention since last April were illegal and that the State Security Court was not the authorised court to try such a case.

Speaking on behalf of the nine-man defence team seated facing the panel of judges, attorney Salih al-'Armuti accused the General Intelligence Department (GID), which he said was not authorised to conduct the interrogations, of "physically and psychologically torturing" the suspects while they were held at the department prison cells for three months before they were transferred to al-Zarqa' military prison.

Around 30 men were arrested last April and held at the GID in the same case, but most of them were released in August.

Colonel Hafiz Amin, the judge presiding over the three-man military panel, asked the defence team to submit written objections, and adjourned the court until Wednesday.

Col. Amin also approved the defence's request to appoint a doctor and psychiatrist to conduct medical check ups on the defendants to report on any signs of torture.

Addressing the court, Mr. al-'Armuti—who was also a defence lawyer in the "Prophet Muhammad's Army" case in 1991—described the charges as "null and void."

"The torture these boys underwent at the Intelligence Department had not been witnessed in this country since its establishment," he asserted. He named a GID officer who had allegedly supervised the alleged torture, but in line with the Press and Publications Law, the JORDAN TIMES cannot publish certain names in an ongoing security trial.

The suspects were brought to the courthouse in a closed white van belonging to the military police.

The suspects' handcuffs were removed in court upon the defence lawyers' insistence before the court opened the session.

Col. Amin warned the public, most of whom were the suspects' relatives and members of the press, against any outbursts during the hearings.

The judge also warned journalists to abide by Article 42 of the Press Publication Law prohibiting the publication of the minutes of the court proceedings.

But he later told journalists they could cover the trial without the full details of everything recorded in court, and requested that the press remain objective and refrain from naming the defendants and witnesses "to avoid any possible tribal clashes," but the names of the defendants had already been published in the local press.

Mr. al-'Armuti, on the other hand, accused prosecutor Major Muhannad Hijazi of leaking the charge sheet to the press, and requested that the court order the prosecution not to leak any information that would "affect public opinion." Maj. Hijazi denied he had leaked the charge sheet, saying he only answered a few questions to reporters.

In the indictment, two of the eight defendants in their thirties were accused of recruting to the al-Tahrir Party five Mu'tah University cadets and one member of the Royal Escort unit and "persuading" them that the Monarch was a "nonbeliever who should be killed."

The two alleged al-Tahrir Party members told the cadets that strategic institutions such as the radio and television station and the royal palaces would be occupied after the death of the King, according to the charge sheet.

However, the defendants were not accused of possession of illegal weapons or explosives, but the prosecution alleged that two of the defendants were to use pistols to kill King Husayn.

Last month, the King told Agence France Presse that he had proof that Army cadets were involved in an Islamist plot to assassinate him.

"It had never occured to me that certain youths will go astray in this way," the King said. "When the group was discovered, its members were put under surveillance, but when the circle widened certain measures against them had to be taken immediately."

Jordan's military is strictly banned from any political activity, and its members are prohibited from voting.

The al-Tahrir Party has denied any involvement in the plot, and two senior members of the party remain in detention, but are not being tried in this case.

Unlike the old State Security Court Law, the new law—passed by the last Parliament—allows the defence to appeal the verdict at the court of appeals.

After the court was adjourned, the public was asked to remain seated as the defendants' hands were tightly cuffed behind their backs. They were led one by one to the van and driven back to detention.

Outside the court building, international television cameras took pictures of the mothers and sisters of the defendants who cried and prayed to God to "save our boys from the hands of the persecutors." They insisted that their sons were being punished "just because they are devout Muslims."

"They beat my brother for 85 days and gave him pills which deprived him of sleep, they forced him to sign a confession," claimed Hamdah 'Askar, a sister of one of the accused.

"He signed after they threatened to sodomise him," she added.

The young dark woman spoke forcefully of her tribe's loyality to the King and described the case as a "conspiracy to create animosity among the Jordanian tribes and King Husayn and the Hashemite family.

As Ms. 'Askar waved her hands in the air, saying that her brother could have easily killed the King if he had wanted to since he was frequently physically close to the Monarch, another woman shouted: "How could six boys occupy the radio and television station with a pistol?"

King Returns From Private Visit to UK

JN1309172893 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Text] Guarded by God's care and protection, His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur returned home this evening following a private visit to the United Kingdom that lasted several days.

Their majesties were received upon arrival at the airport by Prince Muhammad, his majesty the king's personal representative; crown Prince Hasan; and a number of princes and princesses. The prime minister, the Senate vice president, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the chief chamberlain, his majesty's private secretary, the ministers, His Majesty King Husayn's advisers, and senior civic and military leaders were also on hand to receive the king and queen.

Roadblocks Erected; Palestinians Protest Accord

NC1309090593 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Excerpts] Units from the Army and the Internal Security Forces have deployed foot and mobile patrols in the capital streets, entry points, and a number of areas to maintain order and prevent gatherings and demonstrations against the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement in the White House today.

The Public Relations Department in the Directorate General of the Internal Security Forces issued a statement a short time ago saying that there is heavy traffic on capital streets because of the intensive security roadblocks set up jointly by the Army and the Internal Security Forces. It called on the citizens to avoid using the capital's streets except for emergencies to avoid being caught in the traffic jams. Traffic policemen are performing their duties at the capital junctions with heavy traffic. [passage omitted]

A clash took place in the al-Rashidiyah camp near Tyre between the Palestinian groups that support and oppose the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

In the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp, the Palestinians closed the entry points to the camp and burned tires to protest the agreement.

In Marj al-Zuhur, a mourning procession was staged by the Palestinian deportees, who raised black flags and banners.

Soldiers Open Fire on Hizballah Anti-'Arafat Rally

'Illegal Rally' Dispersed

NC1309132093 Paris AFP in English 1308 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Text] Beirut, Sept 13 (AFP)—Lebanese soldiers shot dead at least four members of the Iranian-backed Hizballah and wounded 26 others on Monday as they dispersed an illegal rally against the Israeli-PLO peace deal, a Hizballah official said.

Shaykh Hasan Hamadah said the troops opened fire to disperse the protesters as they headed to a demonstration at a cemetery in the southern suburbs of Beirut where Hizballah had called a rally against "Yasir 'Arafat's treason."

A security official said earlier that one militant was killed and 15 wounded.

The Interior Ministry on Monday banned all demonstrations planned by the Hizballah and radical Palestinian groups opposed to the Israeli-PLO autonomy accord, due to be signed in Washington later in the day.

Hizballah Radio: 5 Killed in 'Massacre'

NC1309145393 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1430 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Excerpts] At the order of the political authorities, the Army units committed a new crime and massacre when they opened fire on demonstrators who were denouncing Yasir 'Arafat's signing of the agreement of treason with the Zionists. This crime led to the martyrdom of five persons and the wounding of 25 others. [passage omitted]

Hizballah and the Islamic and national forces had called for a big demonstration to be staged from the Cola bridge [in West Beirut] to declare a frank stand on 'Arafat's treason. While the masses were proceeding to the Cola bridge, Lebanese Army units intercepted them near the airport bridge, preventing them from moving forward. Afterward, the Army units opened fire on the citizens, killing and wounding many of them.

[Paris AFP in English at 1425 GMT on 13 September transmits a related report that adds the following: "Lebanese soldiers shot dead seven supporters of the Iranian-backed Hizballah and wounded 41 others who defied a government ban and demonstrated against the Israeli-PLO peace deal on Monday, Hizballah said.

["A security official put the toll at four dead and 16 wounded.

["Hizballah official Shaykh Hasan Hamadah said the troops opened fire to disperse the protesters as they headed to a cemetery in the southern suburbs of Beirut where Hizballah had called a rally against "Yasir 'Arafat's treason.""]

Hizballah Demands Official Explanation

NC1309154293 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1430 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Text] Hizballah has issued the following statement: While some of our kinfolk were gathering to express their rejection of the Gaza-Jericho agreement, security units acting on the orders of the political authorities surrounded the demonstrators and opened fire on them, killing and wounding a number of citizens.

Responsibility for this irresponsible act falls squarely on the shoulders of the political authorities, who gave the orders to confront the citizens who wanted to express in a peaceful manner their opposition to an agreement that is predicted to have negative repercussions for Lebanon and the region.

The Hizballah statement adds: The decision to ban gatherings and demonstrations reveals the bad political performance and arbitrary nature of the authorities. It also raises great apprehensions about the authorities' intention to suppress freedom of expression.

The Hizballah statement continues: While we put our kinsfolk and people before this fact, we urge them to rise

to the level of responsibility. We affirm that the attempts at intimidation will not weaken our people's resolve. The political authorities are demanded to submit clarifications regarding the nature of their provocative policy. Is today's incident a prelude to an era of political suppression in favor of authorities that have proved in most instances that they are not qualified to lead the country in a wise manner? These authorities are so immersed in nepotism.

The Hizballah statement concluded: At a time when we denounce this provocative and irresponsible behavior, we say that the power of any political authority does not lie in its ability to suppress and intimidate the citizens but in its ability to solve the problems facing the people and homeland. It also lies in their ability to benefit from all the elements of the national stand and to marshal ranks against current challenges and future developments.

Further on Incident

NC1309161493 Paris AFP in English 1520 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Report by Nagib Khazzaka]

[Excerpts] Beirut, Sept 13 (AFP)—The Lebanese army shot dead seven supporters of the Iranian-backed Hizballah and wounded 41 others who defied a government ban and demonstrated against the Israeli-PLO peace deal on Monday, Hizballah said. [passage omitted]

After the clash, the pavements were splattered with blood and spent cartridges as well as rocks used by demonstrators against troops.

A Hizballah MP [member of parliament], Hasan Birjawi, told AFP that the soldiers themselves were not to blame. "We will only punish those who gave the orders," he said.

It was the first time since the end of Lebanon's civil war in 1990 that troops have opened fire on civilian demonstrators, and the strongest signal to date that the government is preparing to crack down on the Hizballah, which uses the country as a base for attacks on Israel.

Defence Minister Muhsin Dallul said the soldiers "followed orders with discipline and responsibility ... with the aim of preserving peace and national unity." [passage omitted]

"The mercenary authorities have decided to confront the people. They wanted to commit a crime in Beirut while the traitors signed in Washington," Birjawi said.

Hizballah called for "a day of national mourning" for the victims Wednesday, urging residents of Beirut's squalid southern suburbs to take part in massive funeral rallies.

Supporters and opponents of the peace deal fought a gunbattle earlier Monday in the Palestinian refugee camp of al-Rashidiyah in south Lebanon, leaving two wounded, Palestinian officials said.

A senior activist in the Muslim fundamentalist Islamic Jihad, Shaykh Sayyid Barakah, on Monday issued a death threat against Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman Yasir 'Arafat, who is in Washington for the signing ceremony.

"We must rid ourselves of 'Arafat even if it means liquidating him physically," he told AFP while participating in a demonstration against the accord at the 'Ayn al-Hulwah refugee camp.

Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon, Syria and Jordan were paralysed by protests against Arafat and the agreement. Some 50,000 demonstrators thronged through the Yarmuk camp in Syria shouting anti-accord slogans.

Fadlallah Urges Government To Resign

NC1409063793 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 14 Sep 93

[Text] Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has announced that the political leadership, which is shedding the blood of its people and citizens in cold blood, does not deserve the trust of the people, nor does it have the legitimate right to rule them. Therefore, it must resign to show that it shoulders the responsibility for the huge crime committed yesterday, as do civilized governments that respect themselves and their people in similar cases.

Ayatollah Fadlallah added in a comment on yesterday's crime, committed in Beirut's southern suburb by Army units on orders from the political leadership, that we want a government that respects its citizens and knows how to manage adverse emergency events—if there are any adverse popular events—in a responsible manner, not in this criminal fashion. We want our people to preserve national unity in confronting the great challenges and not to give a chance to those who want to create all kinds of sedition and open wounds even if they are big.

Ayatollah Fadlallah called on all people to raise their voices in one word: The government has only one course before it; resignation. Ayatollah Fadlallah called on all Lebanese to attend the funeral of the cherished martyrs to express their condemnation of this criminal massacre and their national unity before such a tragedy.

Defense Minister's 'Justification' Viewed

NC1409070893 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 14 Sep 93

[Text] In reply to the statement made by Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul, a responsible Hizballah source has made the following statement:

We regret that the defense minister did not have all the facts about the massacre that took place today [13 September]—when official security units confronted

unarmed demonstrators and killed more than seven martyrs and wounded 30 others, including a number of women and children—when he made the statement denying that what took place had resulted in any victims.

The responsible source added: As to Minister Dallul's justification that the action against the citizens stemmed from the desire to preserve the peace march and strengthen national unity: Those who demonstrated against the Gaza-Jericho agreement were not harming the peace march and unity but were calmly expressing their condemnation of this agreement.

The source went on to say: This strained behavior, which can be called a crime, is what is harming and will harm the peace, stability, and unity march. Minister Dallul did well when he stressed that the Army executed to the letter the government's instructions, because we have stressed from the first moment of the ugly incident that the government, the political authority, is fully responsible for what took place.

Details of Incident Recounted

NC1409084793 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 14 Sep 93

[Text] As far as the details of what happened yesterday are concerned, at 1400 yesterday after a large crowd of citizens gathered outside the mosque of al-Imam al-Mahdi, may God speed his release, in al-Ghubayri area, to begin the procession organized by the Islamic parties and forces and Lebanese and Palestinian nationalist forces, a gendarmes and army unit deployed in al-Ghubayri square. The members of the unit spread out on the ground and atop tanks carrying all their weapons. Al-Hajj Husayn Khalil, head of the Political Bureau in Hizballah, contacted Lebanese Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul and agreed to direct the gathering masses toward the martyrs tombs in Shatila. After the organizers of the march and the responsible officer were informed of the permission and told the demonstrators that they were allowed to march toward the martyrs tomb, the masses marched in organized and orderly queues some hundred meters. They were then surprised by gunfire in the air. When they continued their procession toward the airport bridge, and before reaching the bridge, bullets fired from a unit deployed near the airport bridge started picking off the demonstrators. Scores of men and women fell either dead or wounded.

At the same time, another group of demonstrators who joined the procession from the Harat Hurayk side, and who had almost arrived at al-Ghubayri square, was being shot at by the Army units deployed at the crossroads of al-Sahil Hospital.

Defense Minister Orders Probe of Shooting

NC1409093493 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 14 Sep 93

[Text] Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul has issued the following statement:

In light of the security problem yesterday and the victims that fell as a result of it, the defense minister has demanded a comprehensive and speedy investigation into the regrettable incident to clearly ascertain what happened. He entrusted Judge Jamil Bayram, the investigator at the military court, to perform this mission. Minister Dallul issued instructions for the investigation to be conducted very quickly and for responsibility to be found for the incident so that the real truth can be revealed legally. Based on this, the investigator proceeded with his task immediately.

Interior Minister Protests Shootings

NC1409100393 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0315 GMT 14 Sep 93

[Text] Seven people died and over 40 were injured in a security clash in the al-Ghubayri area between the Lebanese Army and some people who were demonstrating despite the ban on demonstrations and gatherings issued by the Council of Ministers.

According to his statement, Interior Minister Bisharah Mirhij suspended carrying out his duties at the Interior Ministry in protest at the painful developments. Mirhij said he tried to help the country avoid the harsh option, but failed, despite the positive response of many responsible leaders.

Minister Mirhij met Fu'ad Sinyurah, the state minister for financial affairs, after declaring his stance. Sinyurah clarified that during the visit, Mirhij briefed him on his position. He added that the Council of Ministers will deal with the issue by making the appropriate decision. Leaving the Interior Ministry at night, Mirhij stressed that democratic freedom needs strong institutions. The Lebanese state cannot survive except through democratic freedom.

Our political correspondent says the interior minister opposed the Council of Ministers' decision to ban gatherings and demonstrations, expressing his reservations about it. He reasoned that freedom to express an opinion and demonstrate in Lebanon are at the core of its democracy. Yesterday's incident proved demonstrations cannot be banned in a democratic and free country like Lebanon.

Our political correspondent points out that political circles received information confirming that peaceful demonstrations took place in protest against the Gaza-Jericho agreement. The Army Command asked officials in the political authority to allow for opinions to be expressed within the framework of the peaceful movement. But, the security meeting at the presidential palace affirmed that demonstrations and gatherings will not be allowed.

Political circles said the situation could have been avoided had the politicians heeded the Army Command's opinion on security.

Death Toll Reaches 8 as Woman Dies

NC1409105493 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 14 Sep 93

[Text] A woman who was injured during the security problems that took place yesterday on the airport road died today. This raises the number of dead to eight. The number of injured is 40 people. At 1030 today, the funeral procession of those who died in the clashes yesterday started from Bi'r al-'Abid region. The procession took the road of al-Imam al-Rida mosque in the direction of the airport bridge. The procession is headed by 'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, Hizballah Secretary General Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah, Hizballah officials, and Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al- Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council.

Participants in the procession chanted slogans condemning the United States and Israel and calling for toppling the [Lebanese] Government.

The southern suburb went on strike today in mourning. Shops closed and black banners were hung on the balconies of homes and electricity poles.

Al-Hariri Returns From Syrian Consultations

NC1409101093 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 14 Sep 93

[Text] The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY has reported that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad received Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri in Damascus at 1730 yesterday. The meeting lasted until 1830 and the two officials reviewed the situation in the region in light of recent developments and bilateral relations.

Prime Minister al-Hariri also met Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al- Halim Khaddam and returned to Beirut last night.

Deputies Debate 'Massacre'; al-Hariri May Resign

NC1409110493 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1045 GMT 14 Sep 193

[Report by Yunis 'Awdah and Mariam Bassam from the Chamber of Deputies building in Beirut]

[Excerpts] The massacre in the southern suburb of Beirut yesterday was the main topic at the Chamber of Deputies meeting in al-Najmah Square today. Deputies' remarks generally departed from the main purpose of the extraordinary session—namely, adopting a unified position concerning the next stage after the Israeli- Palestinian agreement.

Instead of a unified position, the session was characterized by an atmosphere of high tension and accusations reaching the level of personal slander. [passage omitted]

Amid this tension, there are rumors here and inside the Chamber that the prime minister is preparing to tender his resignation.

Hizballah Calls 14 Sep Protest Against Accord

NC1409062993 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 14 Sep 93

[Text] Hizballah has issued the following statement: In denunciation of the perfidious Gaza-Jericho agreement and insisting on speaking the word of truth, the word of refusal to recognize the Zionist enemy and its entity that has usurped Jerusalem and Palestine, Hizballah calls on the people to take part in a march of denunciation and condemnation of this ill-fated agreement at 1030 today. The march will start from the al-Imam al-Rida Mosque in Bi'r al-'Abd, where the funeral of the innocent ones martyred yesterday by the bullets of the tyrannical rulers will take place.

The Hizballah statement added: Our proud people—who have shed their blood in defending their territories and resisting their enemy, sacrificed their sons and possessions, and who have never thought that the bullets of treachery and oppression would be fired at them but that they would be defended and protected—will remain the rising people who will exercise their responsible historic role of rejecting all forms of recognition of and normalization with the Zionist enemy and of rejecting all the plots to involve it in marginal issues that are remote from the major issue, namely that of liberating their territories.

In conclusion, the Hizballah statement said: Glory and immortality to our martyrs. Shame and ignominy to the criminal traitors.

AL-SAFIR Editor Sees Nation Subdued by Peacemaking

NC1209094193 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 12 Sep 93

[Text] Talal Salman, chief editor of the newspaper AL-SAFIR, has said: This is the age of the nation's absence. The nation no longer knows it place.

Salman said this absence is a result of someone's intentional design, noting that many have cooperated to subdue the nation through making peace with the Zionist enemy.

He added: No one has the right to confiscate the future of coming generations. The rulers do not have the right to manipulate their nations' destinies.

Salman pointed out that he who is defeated by the enemy does not have the right to confiscate a nation's will because he is eternally incapable of achieving victory.

Couple Killed in Israeli Shelling of Kafr Tibnit

NC1409064893 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 14 Sep 93

[Text] Citizen 'Ali Hasan Tuba and his wife Jeanne d'Arc Hasan al-Akhras were martyred during an Israeli shelling of Kafr Tibnit early today. The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent in al-Nabatiyah reported that the shelling damaged a number of houses and extended to the outskirts of upper al-Nabatiyah. He added that the resistance fighters carried out an operation at 0630 today against the 'Ali al-Tahir position.

Hizballah Ambushes 'Zionist Patrol'

NC1409065093 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0600 GMT 14 Sep 93

[Text] The heroes of the Islamic resistance carried out at 0430 today a series of operations against the positions of the enemy and his agents.

The Martyr Muhammad Najdi group ambushed a mechanized Zionist patrol near the Tallusah position and showered it with rockets and machine-gun fire. One tank was completely destroyed and three of its crew were killed, and a personnel carrier was burned.

At the same time, the Martyrs of the March of Denunciation group attacked several Zionist and Lahdist [South Lebanese Army] positions. The group attacked the 'Ali al-Tahir position fortifications.

The Martyr Abu-'Ali Farid group attacked the al-Dabshah position ramparts and destroyed them completely.

The Martyr Mustafa Shuqayr group was at that time attacking the al-Burj position fortifications while the Martyrs of the March of Denunciation in Palestine groups were attacking the al-Shumariyah ramparts.

The Islamic resistance groups then returned safely to their bases.

Need for 'Comprehensive' Peace Underscored

JN1409083693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 14 Sep 93

[From the press review]

[Text] Syria's correct approach to a comprehensive and just peace was the main talking point of Syrian papers today.

AL-THAWRAH writes: Assessing the progress of the peace process and Syria's position, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has indicated he shares President Hafiz al-Asad's view that Middle East peace must be comprehensive. Christopher further noted that al-Asad is right to underscore the need for a comprehensive solution. By endorsing Syria's perspective of the right solution, Christopher is not just being diplomatic, but giving a logical assessment of the peace process, nearly two years since it was launched. Aware that a gradualist step-by-step approach and piecemeal arrangements can hardly produce true peace in the region, Syria has stuck to international legitimacy and a comprehensive solution. Israel prefers the gradualist approach in order to bypass the essense of the peace process, empty UN resolutions of their substance, and replace a universal solution with truncated and distorted solutions that lend legitimacy to Israeli occupation, and produce less than viable, fragile, and far from comprehensive settlements on all fronts.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying: The U.S. Administration that must have understood the Syrian position and its right perspective on a peace settlement, must have also observed the negativeness and shortsightedness of the Israeli position.

Under the headline: "In the Interest of a Comprehensive Peace", AL-BA'TH writes: Over the past few days, the United States has renewed, through President Bill Clinton and his Secretary of State Warren Christopher, its commitment to a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. This goal, the paper emphasizes, can only be attained in the event of the enforcement of UN Security Council resolutions, specifically Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 envisaging Israel's evacuation of all the occupied territory and recovery of full Arab, not least Palestinian, rights. By reiterating a commitment to a general and fair peace, the sponsor of the peace process, the United States, is supposed to follow up rhetoric with action if it really means what it says. That end is reachable only if the United States acts as the full and honest broker working to advance the interests of all the peoples of the region, and thereby boost global peace.

AL-BA'TH concludes by saying: A truncated, gradualist peace, on the other hand, will only engender further tragedies, tribulations, disturbances, and wars.

Al-Asad Receives Lebanese Prime Minister al-Hariri

JN1309154693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri at 1715 today.

'Steadfast' Resistance in Southern Lebanon Lauded

JN1209162993 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 5 Sep 93 p 8

[Article by Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim 'Abd-al-Samad: "Resistance is a Legitimate Right"]

[Text] The tension prevailing in villages in southern Lebanon is the result of the continuation of the Israeli occupation. Consequently, tragedy is bound to affect the land and people. Tension is exacerbated each day as a result of the continued shelling of the villages adjacent to the occupied Lebanese territory. The Lebanese citizens, who passed through the ordeal of the recent aggression and who returned to their homeland, are still being killed by the shells of the Israeli enemy. Those homes that were not destroyed by the aggression are still the target of direct shells fired by the occupation forces.

Regarding the type of the destructive missiles used by the occupation forces in their shelling of houses, news agencies said yesterday that the 250-kg Israeli missile, which fell on a residential area and did not explode, would have destroyed hundreds of houses if it had exploded.

The continued aggression against defenseless people, and the occupation forces' aggressive operations against land and people, will spark the will of resistance and will prompt the people to stick to their land, to make sacrifices in order to defend the land, and to abort the schemes of the occupation forces and their agents.

Recently, southern Lebanon witnessed remarkable heroic operations inside the so-called occupied border strip against occupation patrols and positions. Contrary to what Israel wants and plans, the resistance found its natural backing among the Lebanese people. Israel failed to sow sedition among the Lebanese and bring Lebanon back to the stage of internal differences and internecine fighting. The resistance emerged again with the determination of all the Lebanese people, supported by all principles and the resolutions of the international legitimacy, in a direct challenge to the occupation authorities, determined to abandon coercion, suffering, and threats.

All this shows that the people's will can remain steadfast in their battle against the occupation no matter how brutal and repressive the terrorism of the occupiers is. It also reaffirms that tension can be defused if the causes of this tension are removed. There is no doubt that the

Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon is the first and last cause of tension and danger threatening the entire region.

Kuwait Fund Extends Grant To Expand Thermal Station

JN1009154393 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1420 GMT 10 Sep 93

[Excerpt] Damascus, 10 Sep (SANA)—The Syrian Government and the Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development signed an agreement at the offices of the State Planning Organization at 1200 today.

Under the agreement, the fund and the fraternal Kuwaiti Government will extend a grant to finance the expansion of the Tishrin Thermal Station at the cost of $86.4 million. Two new gas turbines, each with a capacity of 100 megawatts, will be provided for the project. [passage omitted]

Visiting Chinese Delegation Reviews Bilateral Ties

Meets With NPF Delegates

JN1209143593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 11 Sep 93

[Text] A session of talks was held this evening at the Central Command of the National Progress Front [NPF] between a delegation from the front and a delegation from the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference [CPPCC]. The front's delegation was led by comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, the assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, a member of the front's Central Command, and the head of the Coordination Bureau. The delegation from the CPPCC was led by Hu Sheng, the vice-chairman of the CPPCC.

The two sides reviewed relations between the two groups and countries and ways of developing them in a manner that serves the interests of the two peoples. They hailed the historic relations between the Syrian and Chinese peoples.

They also reviewed developments in the two countries and regions, and the activities of the two groups within the framework of these developments. They emphasized the need to continue cooperation and coordination between the NPF and CPPCC.

Comrade al-Ahmad explained the achievements and the important changes realized by the Syrian Arab people under the leadership of comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad in the march toward building a new society, and with the aim of developing the society and safeguarding the people's national independence.

Comrade al-Ahmar explained in detail the NPF activities in Syria and the role it assumes within the framework of political pluralism.

Comrade al-Ahmar also spoke about the peace process in the region, and emphasized the Syrian's serious desire to realize a comprehensive and just peace that restores the Arab territories and rights to their legitimate owners. He said: Advancing this process toward its objectives depends on Israel's commitment to the implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions that call for withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and recognition of the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate rights.

Comrade al-Ahmar pointed out the importance of the world position and public opinion in advancing the peace process, and said: China has a role in this respect, and we appreciate the supportive Chinese positions toward the just Arab causes. He emphasized the depth of historic relations between the Chinese people and the Syrian and Arab nation.

For his part, Hu Sheng explained in detail the developments in China, and emphasized that the CPPCC is determined to continue cooperation and coordination with the NPF in a manner that serves the causes and interests of the two friendly countries.

Hu Sheng stressed that his country supports the just Arab causes, and called for the implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions, which stipulate the Israeli forces' withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, and a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

He highly valued the Syrian policy, under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, toward various issues, and stressed the need to deepen relations between the political and party organizations in China and Syria.

Received by Vice President Khaddam

JN1209161393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 12 Sep 93

[Excerpt] At 1000 today, Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received the delegation of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference [CPPCC] led by Hu Sheng, vice chairman of the CPPCC. Conversation during the meeting revolved around current developments in the world in general, and in the Middle East in particular. They also discussed ties between the two friendly countries.

Comrade Dr. Sulayman Qaddah, assistant regional secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, today received Hu Sheng, vice chairman of the CPPCC, and his delegation. Daniel Ni'mah, member of the Central Command of the National Progressive Front, and China's ambassador in Damascus, attended. The two sides discussed ties of friendship and cooperation between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Communist Party of China and the means to strengthen and develop them for the benefit of the peoples of the two friendly countries. [passage omitted]

Received by Premier al-Za'bi

JN1409061193 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0855 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Text] Damascus, 13 Sep (SANA)—Prime Minister Mahmud al-Za'bi received at 1000 today the delegation of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference [CPPCC] led by Hu Sheng, vice chairman of the CPPCC.

The meeting was attended by Daniel Ni'mah, member of the Central Command of the National Progressive Front, and the Chinese ambassador in Damascus.

The prime minister explained in detail the most outstanding social and economic developments in Syria, and elaborated—giving facts and figures—on the positive results realized in all fields.

The prime minister emphasized that political and economic pluralism directed by President Hafiz al-Asad has enabled Syria to attain comprehensive, balanced, and continuous development, and given all citizens the opportunity to help build the homeland.

The head and members of the delegation expressed their appreciation of the achievements realized in Syria under President Hafiz al-Asad's leadership.

Afghanistan

Attempt Made on Life of Defense Official

LD1309183193 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Text] Esteemed Mohammad Yunus Qanuni, head of political affairs of the Ministry of Defense, was injured as a result of a treacherous plot. He was on his way to his office at the time. Doctors consider his condition satisfactory. The BAKHTAR military correspondent has reported to us that about 30 kg of (terotyle) explosives had been placed in a hand-cart and were detonated by remote control when the vehicle carrying esteemed Mohammad Yunus Qanuni passed by. The driver and a bodyguard of the head of the Political Department were injured; three passers-by were martyred and two others were injured. In addition three vehicles were destroyed in the incident.

The military correspondent of BAKHTAR reported that the incident was the treacherous plot of a group opposed to peace and security; they resorted to assassinating jihadi and political personalities during the years of jihad and after the victory of the Islamic revolution. In this way, the group has tried to damage the values of the Islamic revolution and to oust from the scene great personalities of jihad.

Hekmatyar on Regional Tour, Internal Issues

PM1009112093 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 6-12 Sep 93 pp 43-45

[Interview with Afghan Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar by Ahmad Muwaffaq Zaydan in Peshawar; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Zaydan] How would you assess your visits to Pakistan, Iran, and Saudi Arabia?

[Hekmatyar] They were official visits at invitations from those states. I believe they were successful and timely. I am satisfied with the results. We discussed issues relating to the new phase which Afghanistan has entered, as we are now in a phase of rebuilding security and stability and of establishing an Islamic state. We assure our friends that the situation is improving, and we are waiting to see what role these states will play in the rebuilding process.

Among the problems afflicting Afghanistan are the problems of transportation and of constructing a new road from the Asian republics to the sea via Afghanistan. This is the most pressing question. The republics have two options to reach the sea: either through Iran or Afghanistan. If the road passes through Iran, it will have serious effects on us. This is why it is necessary to construct this road quickly because we need it with our Pakistani brothers. Some republics want the road to pass through Afghanistan due to its economic and political importance for the the region's future. This is why I decided to visit these states and discuss the matter with them, even with Iran, as there is a possibility of the road passing through it, namely via Helmand, Zahedan, and Bandar-e 'Abbas. But it is of special importance for the road to reach Karachi.

[Zaydan] Did the Asian republics agree to construct the road through Afghanistan?

[Hekmatyar] Yes, we discussed this issue, especially with Uzbekistan, which wants the road to pass through Afghanistan.

[Zaydan] Does that not affect your political relations with Iran?

[Hekmatyar] No, it does not because Iran has huge resources, many roads, and a port. We are a closed country with no access to the sea. Iran does not have this problem. And we are entitled to insist and urge all friends to help us in this connection. We also discussed this question with Pakistan to obtain facilities and to secure easier transit terms for Afghan traders. The Pakistanis agreed to this. [passage omitted]

[Zaydan] What are the difficulties obstructing your entry into the former prime minister's palace inside the old government complex?

[Hekmatyar] I do not believe that my entry into the traditional prime minister's palace is as important as some people imagine. There are more important issues, including moving all armed units out of Kabul, withdrawing heavy weapons from the capital and the other cities, deploying police forces there, and protecting security. But regrettably, there are parties which fear my entry into the prime minister's palace because they are not willing to withdraw their units from Kabul. Armed men are deployed even in the prime minister's building. I have several times asked (President Borhanoddin) Rabbani to move them out of the prime minister's palace, but they still have not moved out.

[Zaydan] If the situation is as you mentioned, who is actually ruling Kabul?

[Hekmatyar] I can say that Kabul is divided into 12 areas [only 11 listed here]: three controlled by the Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] (Hekmatyar's party), one controlled by the Wahdah Party [probably Wahdat-e Eslami-e, Islamic Unity Party], one controlled by the Islamic Movement, one controlled by no one, two controlled by the militias, and three controlled by the shura forces (led by Ahmad Shah Mas'ud). Each area is independent and has its own borders and a Berlin wall. No one can enter without permission. So this situation is in no one's interests.

[Zaydan] What steps will you take to end this situation?

[Hekmatyar] We need to form an Islamic army and a police force. The Army's task is to defend the borders, and the police's task is to take charge of security in cities. But regrettably, the tanks are still in Kabul firing their

shells. If we manage to solve the army and police problems, most other problems will be solved. There are currently attempts to draw up a constitution for the present phase.

[Zaydan] In view of this situation, do you believe that Afghanistan is moving toward peace, or is the specter of war still lingering in the country?

[Hekmatyar] The situation has improved and is now better than before. We do not want the war to come back and are sincerely and earnestly working to stabilize conditions, end clashes completely, and spare Afghanistan new wars. Some parties tried war and achieved nothing. They do not want the war to return. But there are other parties which are living in war and cannot live in peace, as war has become a means of livelihood for them.

[Zaydan] Can you name these parties?

[Hekmatyar] We all know them. They are clear. They could cause problems. Afghanistan's local intelligence is Najibollah's intelligence service. There has not been so much as a one percent change. Employees are the same and security is the same.

[Zaydan] But you are the interior minister and the intelligence service is supposed to be under your leadership.

[Hekmatyar] That is what should happen, but regrettably, there has been no change. They could cause big problems. I can say that all previous battles were caused by them. Remnants of the former communist regime are still in the army. They have tanks which they can use at any moment.

[Zaydan] Your position toward the Uzbek militias was clear at the beginning, then you met with General Dostum. What are the reasons for this change in your position, and what stage has been reached in the Uzbek militias problem and the question of their participation in the government and the elections?

[Hekmatyar] We still insist on moving all armed units from Kabul. It means that my position has not changed. I met with General Dostum in my capacity as prime minister and after the assembly had unanimously agreed to this meeting, with a view to persuading him not to take part in battles in the future and to withdraw his armed units from Kabul.

[Zaydan] Does your meeting with him mean recognition of the militias or the National Islamic Movement led by him?

[Hekmatyar] It does not mean recognition of him or the movement. The meeting was not held for that purpose.

[Zaydan] Will Dostum's movement participate in the next elections?

[Hekmatyar] We insist on holding the elections in October. We urge all brothers to adhere to this, and the elections should be conducted on the basis of the numbers of votes and the right to vote for the Islamic parties only. We do not recognize any non-Islamic party. [passage omitted]

[Zaydan] Since the Islamabad agreement, the holy Mecca agreement, and the Jalalabad agreement there has been no cooperation between you and the head of state. Are you willing to repeat the Pakistan experiment, that is, the resignation of both of you and the formation of a transitional government to supervise the elections?

[Hekmatyar] I am willing to resign because I believe that Pakistan's experiment is good and exemplary. I would resign to form a provisional government to supervise the elections. I proposed this solution even before Najibollah's downfall. [passage omitted]

[Zaydan] The issue of the Arabs who participated in the jihad [against the former Soviet Union] has become a topical issue after the campaign of arrests and raids launched by the Pakistani police. Some fled into Afghan territory and sought protection from the Hezb-e Eslami. What truth is there in this? Are you willing to hand them over to their countries?

[Hekmatyar] Those are baseless allegations. I believe that these elements are very few in number, spread throughout Afghanistan, and do not pose a threat to their countries. It is bad propaganda by the enemies of Islam in order to portray Afghanistan as a source of threat to all Islamic states and as a base for terrorism and fundamentalism, and that is untrue. These people came to Afghanistan to help their Afghan brothers and to provide humanitarian aid to them. Most of them have returned to their countries, although a few stayed to work in charity organizations. There are few of them in Afghanistan.

[Zaydan] Leaders from the Egyptian al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah are said to have entered Afghan territory, such as Shawqi al-Islambuli and others. Are they in the Hezb-e Eslami? If so, are you willing to hand them over?

[Hekmatyar] I do not know where they are exactly. In fact people have made a big issue out of this matter. It is the work of the Western media, which are trying to distract the nation by issues like these.

[Zaydan] With regard to Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, are you willing to grant him political asylum in Afghanistan (prior to his official indictment for bombing the Trade Center in New York)?

[Hekmatyar] The Afghan Government has received no official request for political asylum. The main issue is that deporting Shaykh 'Umar from the United States is unjustifiable, as he is not a criminal, and his deportation violates human rights. But regrettably, the United States

has managed to preoccupy others with this crisis. I do not see any objection to his coming to live in Afghanistan as an immigrant.

[Zaydan] The United States recently asked the mojahedin to return the Stinger missiles. What was your government's reply?

[Hekmatyar] There has been no official request. Nor are there official contacts between the two governments. The United States has not so far recognized the mojahedin government. I do not think that there is any Muslim Afghan who is willing to forfeit a Kalashnikov bullet, much less a Stinger missile!

[Zaydan] The situation on the Tajik-Afghan border is tense. How will it be tackled?

[Hekmatyar] The Russian Government should have played the role of an intermediary, instead of interfering directly in Tajikistan's affairs. I believe the solution is to form a provisional government and then hold general elections. [passage omitted]

India

Rao Comments on Visit to PRC, South Korea

BK1309102293 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 12 Sep 93

[By correspondent Harish Segon]

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, who returned last night after a six-day tour of China and South Korea, has described his visit as successful. Mr. Rao was talking to newspersons on board the special aircraft on his way back home. Here is a report:

[Begin Harish Segon recording] The prime minister says India and China have adopted a pragmatic and friendly approach in signing the agreement on maintaining peace and tranquility along the Line of Actual Control on the India-China border. Mr. Narasimha Rao expressed the hope that by this approach, the outstanding border question between the two countries will be resolved in the course of time. Answering questions by newsmen, Mr Rao said he is quite satisfied with the visit. The real thing, he said, is that we did not get bogged down on one question. There was overall progress and this represents the forward movement on all fronts. Replying to the question about strained relations between India and China in the past, Mr. Rao said that for old generation in the two countries, there has been tension and misunderstanding. The sooner it is removed, better it will be for the two countries. The new generation in India and China should be brought together without bias and prejudice.

About his visit to South Korea, Mr. Rao said it will give a new thrust to economic cooperation between the two countries. The prime minister pointed out that he has invited leaders of trade and industry in South Korea to take advantage of the liberalized economy and invest in India. Replying to another question, Mr. Rao said India welcomes the agreement between Israel and the PLO. He expressed the hope that the agreement will lead to final settlement of the West Aisa problem. [end recording]

Expert Groups To Implement Border Pact With PRC

BK1309160493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Text] India and China are to set up expert groups to go into various aspects of the implementation of the agreement relating to the line of actual control. The groups will comprise officials of the ministries of external affairs, defense, and the office of the surveyor generals of the two countries. Our correspondent says these groups are likely to be constituted within six to eight weeks and will start functioning by the year-end. They will report to the foreign secretary-level joint working group on the border dispute and other bilateral matters. Highly placed officials said in New Delhi today that the bilateral agreement on maintaining peace and tranquillity on the line of actual control is a substantive watershed in Sino-Indian relations.

The officials decried the criticism in some circles that India has conceded more than what it has got from China. They said both sides tackled the issue in a rational manner by coming to grips with reality. Pointing out that the line of actual control has not been demarcated cartographically on the ground, they said both sides have a chain of posts along a certain line. Both sides are aware of the rough perception of the terrain. Now, with the agreement, the two countries have translated into commitment their political will to maintain peace and to move on to more substantive issues of the border dispute.

South Korean Reportage on Prime Minister's Visit

WA1309150093

For ROK reportage on the visit to South Korea by Prime Minister Narasimha Rao, including reports on meetings with President Kim Yong-sam, see the South Korea section of the 9 September East Asia DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Two Killed in Secunderabad Bomb Blast

BK1209075693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 12 Sep 93

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh, a bomb exploded in the reservation complex of the Secunderabad railway station this morning [12 September], killing two railway officials and injuring two others. Both the dead were identified as chief reservation inspectors. According to a South Central Railway spokesman, the condition of one of those injured in the blast was critical.

Explosion Said Unrelated to Terrorism

BK1209130293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 12 Sep 93

[Text] The Andhra Pradesh chief minister, Mr. K. Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy, has said that today's [12 September] bomb blast in the railway reservation office at Secunderabad has nothing to do with terrorism. He told our Hyderabad correspondent that it was an attempt of some miscreants to destroy incriminating office records. He said efforts are on to arrest the culprits. Two reservation inspectors were killed and one injured in the blast.

The state home minister, Mr. A. Dharma Rao, said the state government has handed over the case to CID [Criminal Investigation Department] for a thorough probe into the blast. After returning from the spot, the minister said the injured official is out of danger.

Meanwhile, security arrangements have been further strengthened at all the vital installations all over the state. Meanwhile, the railway minister, Mr. C.K. Jaffer Sherief, has issued instructions to step up security measures at all important railway installations. He expressed his heartfelt condolences with the families of the two deceased employees.

Iran

President Receives Bosnian President Izetbegovic

LD1209140993 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in English 1315 GMT 12 Sep 93

[Text] Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic arrived in Tehran today for an official visit. My colleague was there, and is sending us the following report:

[Video shows Izetbegovic arriving at Tehran's Mehrabad Airport; being welcomed by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Heading a high-ranking political delegation, Bosnia's president, Mr. Alija Izetbegovic, arrived in Tehran this afternoon and was welcomed by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani at the airport. During his stay in Tehran, Mr. Izetbegovic will meet senior Iranian officials.

The Bosnian delegation arrived in Tehran from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, and was warmly received at Mehrabad Airport by President Rafsanjani, Foreign Minister Velayati, and a number of senior officials and ambassadors.

Upon his arrival Mr. Izetbegovic attended a televized press conference, elaborating on some of the Bosnian-related issues. The visiting Bosnian president said his trip was aimed at discussing the outcome of his negotiations with some of the world leaders as well as the Bosnian peace talks in Geneva. Mr. Izetbegovic called Iran the Bosnian nation's best friend and asked for further Iranian support.

Referring to the situation of the Bosnian people, Mr. Izetbegovic called it grave and said: The Bosnian Serbs and Croats are increasing their military pressure on Bosnia to divide Bosnia's territory between themselves.

President Rafsanjani then said he will discuss the latest developments in the Balkans with his Bosnian counterpart. The president also said: The Bosnian crisis is an extremely important issue to the Muslim world and Iran, as one member of the world Muslim community, will take new measures to help the Bosnian nation defend itself.

Mr. Rafsanjani also declared: Iran earnestly follows the Bosnian-related affairs and supports Bosnia's oppressed people in the world political arena.

Mr. Izetbegovic and his accompanying delegation are expected to leave Tehran tomorrow.

Presidents Hold 1st Round of Talks

LD1209183093 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Sep 93

[Text] The first round of talks between Alija Izetbegovic, the president of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani took place in Tehran tonight.

At the meeting, Mr. Izetbegovic expressed delight at visiting the Islamic Republic of Iran and briefed President Hashemi-Rafsanjani on the latest developments concerning the defeat [as heard] of the Geneva peace talks and the continuation of aggression on the part of the criminal Serbs, which is taking place with tacit support from Western countries.

Mr. Izetbegovic referred to the oppressed and defenseless Muslim people of Bosnia-Herzegovina. These people have been the object of the aggressor Serbs' grudge and contempt, and are under a total arms embargo in the face of the silence and procrastination of some Western countries. He said: The nation of Bosnia-Herzegovina has no other choice but to defend its homeland and honor, and will continue its struggle until it regains its territory from the hands of the aggressors.

The president of Bosnia-Herzegovina considered the support given by some Western governments to the violators of the rights of that country to be a gross injustice committed against the rights of a independent and free nation. He said: While they know that the essential and vital need of the people of Bosnia is to have access to arms so that they may defend themselves, they nevertheless ignore this important question and try to distract us with issues that are peripheral and a waste of time.

Mr. Izetbegovic also called on Islamic countries, especially members of the Islamic Conference Organization, to participate more seriously and actively to bring pressure against the Serbian aggressors and to support and back the combatants of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

He thanked the Iranian Government and nation for the support they have shown toward the people of Bosnia. He said: The pure souls of the oppressed martyrs of Bosnia-Herzegovina are very jubilant at our presence in the Islamic Republic of Iran. We are interested in establishing greater cooperation with the friendly country of Iran in the cultural, political, technical, and expert fields.

Afterward, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, emphasizing the unstinting and all-embracing support of the Iranian Government and the people for the defenseless and oppressed people of Bosnia-Herzegovina, said: History has given evidence that, by resorting to aggression and ruthlessness—no matter how harshly applied—one cannot trample on the rights of an independent and free nation forever. Confrontation of the Serbian aggressors with the Islamic world and the support given to them by some Western governments will have harmful consequences for them among the Islamic countries, and the Muslim nations will not forgive them.

The president stressed the need for serious and overall action of the Islamic countries to defend the Muslim people of Bosnia-Herzegovina and said: The United Nations, by respecting an approved resolution of the Islamic Conference Organization, should prepare the grounds for these countries to dispatch their peacekeeping forces to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed the hope that with the defeat of the conspiracies of the aggressive Serbs, the nation of Bosnia-Herzegovina would regain its lost rights, and then the Islamic Republic of Iran would help the people of that country to rebuild the ruins of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Khamene'i Receives Izetbegovic

LD1309094593 Tehran IRNA in English 0918 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 13, IRNA—Leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i Monday [13 September] castigated the world big powers for imposing military sanctions against Bosnia-Herzegovina and stripping the Bosnian Muslims from the right to defend themselves against Serbs aggression.

Ayatollah Khamene'i who received the Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic Monday morning in a meeting also attended by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, expressed deep regret over the savage aggression of the Serbs against Bosnians.

The leader stressed that resistance of the brave Bosnian youths against the aggressors was a promising point in this unequal war.

"Arrangements should be made to enable the Bosnian nation to defend itself with greater strength and power and thereby pave the way for securing more interests to the benefit of Muslims," stated the leader.

He underlined Iran's readiness to abide by its duty to support the Bonsian Muslims and said, "the big powers, under the pretext of preventing escalation of the war, have blocked all ways to the Bosnian Muslims and stripped a nation from its undeniable right of defending itself."

Ayatollah Khamene'i deplored the fact that both the Iranian nation and government had not been able to fully materialize their sincere wish to render further support to the Bosnian people.

The Bosnian president briefed Ayatollah Khamene'i on the outcome of his talks with Iranian senior officials.

He said that despite the U.N. and western imposed military sanctions against Bosnia, the brave devout combatant Bosnians were boldly standing against the aggressor till the last drop of their blood.

On behalf of the Bosnian nation and government, Izetbegovic appreciated the moral support that Iranian people and government have so far rendered to the Bosnian Muslims.

Izetbegovic arrived here from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, Sunday [12 September] prior to taking part in the Geneva peace talks on Bosnia, due to be held on Tuesday.

Izebegovic Departs for Geneva

LD1309100893 Tehran IRNA in English 0938 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 13, IRNA—Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic left here for Geneva Monday after two days of talks with Iranian senior officials. Speaking to reporters at the airport, Izetbegovic referred to Iran as a "friendly and fraternal" Muslim country adding that he reached full agreement with Iranian high-ranking officials during his brief talks here.

President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani who was also present at the airport called on international circles to make further efforts to find a solution to the Bosnian crisis. He said that the deplorable status of Bosnian Muslims "is a disgrace for mankind and history" and that "future generations will find no justification to the ongoing genocide." Rafsanjani criticized the big powers for being indifferent and applying a double standarad policy towards the Bosnian issue.

He said that despite their seeming slogans in support of Muslims in Bosnia, the world powers, by imposing military sanction, were in fact providing the Serbs and Croats with a better chance to massacre Muslims.

Rafsanjani reiterated Iran's readiness to dispatch forces to Bosnia to help establish peace in the war-torn republic, adding that the U.N. had no more justification for its alleged lack of financial and military potential. He called on the U.N. to be more serious towards restoring

peace in Bosnia and noted that continuation of the current trend would bear deplorable outcomes.

While here, Izetbegovic met the leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, President Rafsanjani and Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Hails Iranian Support for Bosnia

LD1309105693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 13 Sep 93

[Text] President Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia-Herzegovina left Tehran this morning after a short visit to our country. He was seen off officially by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

At the conclusion of his visit to Tehran, the president of Bosnia-Herzegovina said: We have reached full agreement during our talks with the leader of the Islamic revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, and the Islamic President of Iran, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani. Mr. Izetbegovic said: The Islamic Republic of Iran and the Muslim people of this country have always been the true supporters of the oppressed people of Bosnia and, in the course of our talks, we stressed the need for continuation of this support during the war and in peace time.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, referring to his talks with Mr. Izetbegovic said:

[Begin Rafsanjani recording] Beginning yesterday evening, when His Excellency arrived, continuing through today we have held very lengthy and explicit talks on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The talks were intensive but with high content. First, we were greatly interested to know what the facts are on the arena: in Bosnia, Geneva, and at the United Nations and the Security Council, and also in connection with the global powers, who claim to want to help. On the whole, the situation is bad. From what we understand from the situation in the Balkans, it has become a testing ground for this juncture of our history—and unfortunately it is a cause of shame for humanity these days. I think every human being with the slightest sense of justice and honesty is sad about what is happening in Bosnia now. It is all sad: the conditions enjoyed by the Serbs—and to some extent the Croats— the indifference of the major powers, and the state of duplicity and hypocrisy. That is, on the one hand they shout the slogan of support, but in practice they are showing opposition. For they have tied down the Muslims' hands by all means. They are surrounded from all sides and cannot get hold of anything. On the other hand, their enemies' hands are open. They enjoy the support of some powerful states and some other regional countries. In fact from the results of our talks with His Excellency, it seems that our history today should be ashamed as it will have no answer to give in future.

One of the most regrettable points is that Islamic countries expressed a willingness to send forces in conjunction with the United Nations, under the UN flag, for the sake of peace there, seriously for peace. They would also pay the cost. But the United Nations, using the excuse that it does not have the money, has not accepted, or is procrastinating. There is no justification for these injustices.

Well, we spoke with him [Izetbegovic] and we examined possible ways of emerging from this dead end. We even took some decisions. But I think that, in this case, there is really a need for a more extensive international initiative. That is what we need to solve this puzzle. I hope that his trip will prove effective in the destiny of the Bosnian people. [end recording]

Envoy to Armenia Returns; Comments on Peace Prospects

LD1209105893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 12 Sep 93

[Text] Mr. Qasemi, our Foreign Ministry's special envoy to Armenia, who visited Yerevan in order to examine the situation and to convey our country's anxiety over the continuing Armenian forces' attacks against Azerbaijani territory, returned to Tehran today. During his two day visit, he held discussions with Armenian officials and submitted a written message from Mr. Velayati, the foreign minister. Our correspondent conducted an interview with Mr. Qasemi about the outcome of his trip. Let me draw your attention to this interview:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] In view of your talks with Armenian officials, how do you perceive their current outlook on the Karabakh issue, and what conditions did the Armenians raise regarding withdrawal from occupied towns?

[Qasemi] In view of the (?visit) and the extensive talks that we held in Armenia—and we also submitted a message from Dr. Velayati to the Armenian foreign minister—we discussed these problems at length. The Armenians in Yerevan at this time feel that the situation is not going their way and that they are under a great deal of pressure because of the occupation of Azerbaijani territory. They believe that they have differences of opinion with Karabakh. Of course, they have put considerable pressure on Karabakh to prevent the Karabakhis from making military advances and to encourage them to come to the negotiating table. Plans are under way for the Karabakhis and the Azerbaijanis to hold talks so that they may reach better results:

[Correspondent] Will you also be holding talks with Azerbaijani officials in this connection?

[Qasemi] In view of the sensitivity of the Islamic Republic of Iran in relation to its borders, and in view of developments in the region, Iran has repeatedly been in contact with Baku's leaders, and our contacts with the

Azerbaijani Government will undoubtedly continue. We will continue our talks in connection with resolving the problem.

[Correspondent] In view of the present circumstances, how much hope can there be that peace will be established between the two countries?

[Qasemi] As I am sure you know, the situation in the Caucasus and the problem of Karabakh are not simple issues. They are quite complicated, and numerous factors are involved. Of course, steps are now being taken. However, referring to the question of whether we should be expecting a very rapid estalishment of peace: that would be very unrealistic. But, I think steps are being taken and neighboring countries must seriously assist this process so that we can move in the direction of peace. [end recording]

Velayati Receives Message From Armenian Foreign Minister

NC1409100793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0230 GMT 14 Sep 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati received a written message from the Armenian foreign minister last night. In his message, which was handed to our foreign minister by the Armenian charge d'affaires, the Armenian foreign minister described Armenia's outlook on recent developments in the region and affirmed that the Armenian forces will not carry out new military operations. The Armenian foreign minister also emphasized the importance of preserving relations between Yerevan and Tehran.

Velayati, Azerbaijan's Aliyev Discuss Developments

NC1409090793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0230 GMT 14 Sep 93

[Text] The latest regional developments were discussed during a telephone conversation between Foreign Minister Velayati and acting Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev last night.

During this telephone conversation, Velayati said that in his written message to the Armenian officials, he has explicitly stated that the Islamic Republic of Iran categorically opposes any effort to alter the borders of Armenia and of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The Iranian foreign minister told the acting Azerbaijani president that the Armenian president and foreign minister have given assurances that the Armenians' military activities have been stopped and that the occupied areas will be freed.

Acting Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its efforts and for setting up camps to house refugees and said: The Islamic Republic's unsparing support and assistance to the Azerbaijani nation and government under these sensitive conditions are extremely valuable and historic events. I am sure that with the continued help from the high-ranking officials and the people of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the two countries' friendship will be deepened.

Pakistan

Akram Zaki Named Ambassador to United States

BK1209142893 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 12 Sep 93

[Text] Mr. Akram Zaki has been appointed Pakistan's new ambassador to the United States. Mr. Akram Zaki, the senior-most career diplomat, is presently serving as secretary general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 1321 GMT on 12 September in a similar report adds: "Zaki, 62, has previously served as ambassador in China, the Philippines and Nigeria, besides holding senior diplomatic assignments in Washington and Ottawa."]

Editorial Criticizes U.S. Sanctions on Missile Issue

BK1309125193 Lahore JANG in Urdu 27 Aug 93 p 5

[Editorial: "The Latest Steps Against Pakistan and China"]

[Text] The U.S. Government has imposed economic sanctions against Pakistan and the PRC after the State Department accused the two countries of involvement in sensitive missile technology deals in contravention of international control on weapons. According to the U.S. spokesman, restrictions against the PRC will remain in force for two years on $500 million in annual exports to the United States. Pakistan will, however, be less affected by these restrictions. The Ambassadors of Pakistan and the PRC in Washington have been apprised of the U.S. Government's decision. A few weeks ago, both Pakistan and the PRC had refuted the U.S. accusation. According to a BBC commentary, there was already tension in the relations between the United States and the PRC on human rights and trade disputes, and China is unlikely to bow to the United States. In Islamabad also, a spokesman of the Pakistani Government has again rejected the accusation and said that Pakistan has not acquired M-11 missiles from China. Of course, it did acquire some ordinary missiles in the eighties when it was subjected to a number of Soviet Scud missile attacks from neighboring Afghanistan.

The U.S. rulers have always disliked the friendship between Pakistan and China. The softness in the U.S. attitude during the Afghan war was only because it involved protection of U.S. interests. The United States had suspended military assistance to Pakistan during the 1965 war. Now all economic and military assistance to Pakistan has been stopped due to Pakistan's nuclear policy. The United States has not only stopped the

assistance to Pakistan itself but is also exerting pressure on its allies not to give aid to Pakistan. This is why Japan refused to give a $400 million loan to Pakistan.

So far as objections to Pakistan's nuclear policy and the suspension of aid on this pretext are concerned, the United States is showing a totally biased attitude and is taking unilateral steps against this country. Pakistan considers it a regional issue and wants to see that India is also meted out the same treatment. Pakistan is ready to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, provided India does the same. India has not allowed inspection of its nuclear installations nor is it ready to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. It has not stopped acquiring heavy weapons from other countries, either. Despite all this, the United States wants to exempt India from all restrictions and to throw all its wrath on Pakistan. In other words, it means Pakistan should not accelerate its defense capability and turn itself into easy prey for an aggressive country like India. Looking from this perspective, we find that the United States has no interest in the protection of the security, independence, and sovereignty of Pakistan. It is not ready to supply arms to Pakistan itself, nor is it willing to allow Pakistan to acquire weapons from other countries for its defense. It is possessed by an intense aversion to Pakistan's relations, especially with China. The United States and other big powers violate the international agreements whenever they like. However, they force weak nations to comply with agreements that are detrimental to their independence, security, and sovereignty and leave these weak nations at the mercy of others. The government of Pakistan has fulfilled its moral and international obligation by refuting the U.S. allegation. If the United States still considers its stand as the last word, then it is Pakistan's right and duty to defend its own stand as a sovereign and independent country. The government should take the nation into confidence in this regard and mobilize all resources to protect the country's security, sovereignty, and independence.

Editorial Views India's Warming Ties With Beijing

BK1009110793 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 10 Sep 93 p 6

[Editorial: "India Warming Up to Beijing]

[Text] During Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's just concluded three-day official visit to Beijing, the two countries signed an agreement which seeks to reduce border troops and to keep each other informed of military exercises along the 3500 km long line of actual control (LAC) in an area where the two countries went to war some three decades ago. This is by far the most significant agreement among a number of other protocols signed between the two on cooperation in environmental protection, radio and television and an extension of border trade. It indicates a determination to gradually tackle the thorny question of border demarcation—a dispute which both sides had thus far put aside because of its apparent intractability.

Mr Rao's visit was the second by an Indian prime minister after late Rajiv Gandhi visited China in 1988, the first such visit by an Indian prime minister in thirty years. Rajiv's visit was returned by Premier Li Peng in 1991, in itself the first ever such visit by a Chinese prime minister. Last year, in May 1992, Indian President Mr Venkatamamen went to Beijing on a week-long visit which also was the first to China by an Indian head of state. All these earlier visits culminated in the two sides signing a number of agreements including restoration of border trade, reopening of consulates in Bombay and Shanghai and cooperation in the fields of science, technology and space. The latest agreement is qualitatively different from all previous agreements because it touches upon one of the core problems between the two and demonstrates that slowly but steadily New Delhi is proceeding along the path of wooing Beijing. Ever since the collapse of the two central pillars of Indian foreign policy after the end of the Cold War—namely, the disappearance of strategic support from the former Soviet Union in the wake of the latter's break up and the irrelevance of NAM [Nonaligned Movement] in a unipolar world—New Delhi has been seeking to win over China as a counter balance to the loss of the main props of its foreign policy. The revival of Hindu [words indistinct] may yet be on the other side of the horizon but India's determined bid to come closer to China is there for all to see. It is in this context that the development will be of interest to the region and particularly to Pakistan.

The Sino-India agreement on reducing the number of troops on both sides of LAC shows that India may understand the rationale and value of such concrete steps which, not only as a confidence building measure but also as a substantive change in the situation on the ground, helps create the right kind of atmosphere for further progress in improving bilateral relations. A need for strengthening such an atmosphere is apparent from

the fact that contrary to what was generally hoped, an agreement on the border dispute between the two countries did not materialise. This means that there still remain substantial differences between India and China on a matter which was at the centre of an armed conflict between them in 1962 and has remained a source of tension ever since. However, as the general thinking on the subject in New Delhi indicates, India too realises now that it was the resolution of this basic issue which can ensure a durable peace. Pakistan shall welcome this as a positive development. Particularly so because India has been refusing to enter into talks with Pakistan with a view to solving the Kashmir problem which continued to vitiate Pakistan-India relations. It can only be hoped that the Indians will, for a change, apply this same wisdom in response to Pakistan's various initiatives to defuse tension and improve bilateral relations. An agreement on reducing troops on both sides of the LOC [line of control] in Kashmir will help a great deal in lessening tensions between Pakistan and India, and given the right kind of approach, both sides can build upon this leading up to a mutually acceptable solution of the Kashmir dispute. On the other hand, as the past experience shows, if the Indians are thinking of re-deploying the troops freed from manning the Sino-Indian border along the line of control in Kashmir, the optimism generated by the positive looking results of the Sino-Indian summit earlier this week, will evaporate in thin air. Pakistan will have to be watchful. Let us hope the optimism does not turn out to be short-lived.